

C.44 944  
Especially for  
S. P. M. 2. ✓  
C. M. 2. ✓

County Borough of West Bromwich



# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of  
West Bromwich

FOR

1955



County Borough of West Bromwich



# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of  
West Bromwich

FOR

1955





*Friar Park Infant Welfare Centre opened by the Right Hon. John Dugdale, M.P.  
on the 19th January, 1955*



# CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES

(at 31st December, 1955)

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor MRS. M. EVITTS

Deputy Chairman : Councillor J. W. HUBBARD

HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor MRS. E. W. GRANT, J.P.)

Alderman A. GREEN

Councillor A. JONES

Councillor H. A. BEVAN

Councillor F. LEESON

Councillor T. A. DEAKIN

Councillor MRS. L. PECKOVER

Councillor N. E. FLETCHER

Councillor F. G. PHILLIPS

Councillor J. S. GIBBONS

Councillor MRS. J. SCOTT

Councillor E. KNIGHT

Councillor J. WENLOCK

## Co-opted Members

D. SAKLATVALA, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

F. R. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

MR. L. H. TIMMINS

MR. W. E. WIMBERGER, F.R.C.S.

## MENTAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor J. W. HUBBARD

HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor MRS. E. W. GRANT, J.P.)

Alderman A. GREEN

Councillor F. LEESON

Councillor T. A. DEAKIN

Councillor MRS. J. SCOTT

Councillor MRS. M. EVITTS

DR. F. R. SMITH

Councillor A. JONES

## HYGIENE AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE

Chairman : Alderman A. GREEN

Deputy Chairman : Councillor F. G. PHILLIPS

HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor MRS. E. W. GRANT, J.P.)

Councillor MRS. M. EVITTS

Councillor MRS. L. PECKOVER

Councillor N. E. FLETCHER

Councillor E. H. SCOTT

Councillor F. LEESON

Councillor J. WENLOCK

## WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor REV. G. L. SLATER, M.A.

Deputy Chairman : Councillor MRS. D. MANIFOLD

HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor MRS. E. W. GRANT, J.P.)

Councillor J. EVANS

Councillor MRS. J. SCOTT

Councillor J. S. GIBBONS

Councillor R. T. SPOONER, M.A.

Councillor MRS. L. PECKOVER

Councillor J. WENLOCK

## Co-opted Members

MRS. A. CROSS

REV. J. E. MILLER



# CONTENTS

---

	<i>Page</i>
Introductory Letter .. .. .	8
Vital Statistics .. .. .	21
Infectious Diseases :	
(i) Acute Infections .. .. .	25
(ii) Tuberculosis .. .. .	31
Mass Miniature Radiography .. .. .	35
Pneumoconiosis in Local Industry .. .. .	36
Nursing Homes .. .. .	37
Convalescence .. .. .	37
Dental Service .. .. .	40
Problem Families .. .. .	43
Maternal and Child Health .. .. .	46
Health Visiting .. .. .	58
Home Nursing .. .. .	61
Health Education .. .. .	63
Vaccination and Immunisation .. .. .	64
Ambulance Service .. .. .	68
Home Help Service .. .. .	70
Mental Health .. .. .	73
Welfare Services .. .. .	81
Appendix I. Illness in Infancy .. .. .	95
Appendix II. The Health Aspects of Atmospheric Pollution .. .. .	96
Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent .. .. .	101



# STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(at 31st December, 1955)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND CHIEF WELFARE OFFICER ..	G. M. FLEMING, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (to 28.2.55) J. F. SKONE, M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.I.H. (from 1.5.55)
DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH .. .. .	M. PARK, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 5.12.55)
SENIOR ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH .. ..	R. LINDOP, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H. (to 4.12.55)
ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH .. .. .	A. BLENCH, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S. R. LINDOP, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H. (part- time from 5.12.55) M. SHIELDS, M.B., Ch.B. (part-time)
CHEST PHYSICIAN .. .. .	C. W. D. COLE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (part-time)
MEDICAL SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES	G. E. E. USHER SOMERS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G.
PRINCIPAL DENTAL OFFICER ..	D. HALLEY GOOSE, B.Sc., B.D.S.
DENTAL OFFICERS .. .. .	J. G. POTTER, L.D.S., R.F.P.S. F. A. JOHNSON, B.D.S. (from 19.9.55) J. VINCENT, L.D.S. (to 10.6.55) J. M. RUDDLE, L.D.S., R.C.S., B.D.S. (part-time from 16.8.55)
OPHTHALMOLOGIST .. .. .	L. MARX, M.B., Ch.B.
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT ..	S. CAYTON, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.F., A.M.Inst.P.C. (a) (c) (f) (g) (h) (from 1.3.55)
DEPUTY CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR	G. H. SHAW (a) (c)
DISTRICT SANITARY INSPECTORS ..	F. W. BALL (b) (c) (d) (e) (to 17.10.55) C. N. JOHNSON (b) F. A. OAKES (b) (c) A. W. REEVES (b) (c)
EXAMINATIONS :	(a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Society of Health. (b) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board. (c) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Society of Health. (d) Sanitary Science Certificate, Royal Society of Health. (e) Smoke Inspector's Certificate, Royal Society of Health. (f) Member of the Institute of Fuel. (g) Advanced Knowledge of Sanitary Inspector's Duties, Royal Society of Health. (h) Testamur of the Institute of Public Cleansing.
PUPIL SANITARY INSPECTORS ..	D. A. SPURRIER (from 8.9.55) P. D. WHITEHEAD (from 5.9.55) C. D. WHITEHOUSE
CLEANSING INSPECTOR AND ACTING ASSISTANT CLEANSING SUPERIN- TENDENT .. .. .	K. J. BELLMORE
CHIEF NURSING OFFICER .. ..	MISS E. A. ROBERTS (a) (b) (c)
DEPUTY CHIEF NURSING OFFICER ..	MISS M. E. GREASLEY (a) (b) (c)



HEALTH VISITORS/SCHOOL NURSES..			MISS E. M. BROSNAN (a) (b) (c)
			MISS D. DANKS (a) (b) (c)
			MISS W. J. GREEN (a) (b) (c)
			MRS. M. M. T. HALL (a) (b) (c)
			MRS. E. HEAVEN (a) (b) (f) (to 31.10.55)
			MRS. L. J. JENKINS (a) (b) (c) (from 1.9.55)
			MISS E. JONES (a) (b)
			MISS E. KING (a) (b) (c) (e) (to 16.7.55)
			MRS. C. PASKIN (a) (b) (c)
			MRS. L. SLATER (a) (b) (d) (g)
			MRS. M. E. WILKES (a) (b) (c)
STUDENT HEALTH VISITOR ..	..		MRS. L. J. JENKINS (a) (b) (to 30.8.55)
TUBERCULOSIS VISITORS ..	..		MRS. V. E. ALDHOUS (b) (from 2.5.55 to 31.7.55)
			MISS G. S. GEDRYCH (a) (b) (d) (part-time to 7.5.55)
			MISS D. PETTY (b)
MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES ..	..		MISS I. CALLUM (a)
			MRS. E. DODSON (a)
			MISS F. FORGHAM (a) (b)
			MISS D. HICKMAN (a) (b)
			MISS E. NUNN (a) (b)
			MRS. B. PEREGRINE (a) (b)
			MRS. J. PICKSTONE (a)
			MISS M. PIERCY (a)
			MRS. G. S. POINTON (a) (b)
DISTRICT NURSES ..	..		MR. C. ANSELL (b)
			MISS A. J. ASTON (b) (part-time from 28.2.55 to 1.5.55 — full-time from 2.5.55)
			MISS M. E. ARMITAGE (a) (b) (g) (part-time)
			MRS. E. BATES (a) (b)
			MISS E. W. DOWNING (a) (part-time)
			MISS E. HEAP (h) (part-time)
			MR. D. E. JENKINS (b)
			MRS. I. H. LOWE (b) (from 21.11.55)
			MRS. J. MARTIN (b) (part-time to 29.1.55 — full-time from 30.1.55)
			MISS A. WIGGINS (b) (i) (to 30.10.55)

- (a) State Certified Midwife.
- (b) State Registered Nurse.
- (c) Health Visitor's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (d) State Registered Fever Nurse
- (e) Royal Medical Psychological Association — Certificate.
- (f) Diploma Nursing.
- (g) Queen's Institute District Nurse
- (h) State Enrolled Assistant Nurse
- (i) National Hospital Masseur's Certificate.

#### MENTAL HEALTH :

W. D. FODEN, D.P.A., Duly Authorised Officer  
A. SHAW, Duly Authorised Officer (part-time)  
MISS I. SIDDALL, Mental Health Officer (to 7.8.55)  
W. S. TERRY, Psychiatric Social Worker (part-time to 30.6.55)  
MRS. E. HEILBRONN, Mental Health Social Worker (part-time from 20.6.55)  
MRS. C. COE, Occupation Centre Supervisor  
MRS. M. E. POWELL, Assistant Occupation Centre Supervisor  
MRS. M. NEILSON, Assistant Occupation Centre Supervisor (from 26.9.55)



HOME HELP SERVICE :

MRS. J. M. DAY, Home Help Organiser

WELFARE SERVICES :

R. F. BAKER, Welfare Officer

R. A. G. GUY, Welfare Officer (from 1.12.55)

MR. AND MRS. C. PLANT, Joint Wardens, " Beech Holme," Home for Elderly Men

MR. AND MRS. G. F. SMITH, Joint Wardens, " Lyndon House," Home for Elderly Men and Women (to 23.5.55).

MR. AND MRS. B. A. REECE (from 1.8.55)

MISS F. M. WYATT, Warden, " The Hawthorns," Home for Elderly Ladies.

ADMINISTRATIVE :

A. SHAW, Chief Clerk

C. S. STOKES, Chief Clerk, Sanitary Department

K. J. HICKINBOTTOM, Senior Clerk

MISS M. E. PRICHARD, Medical Officer's Secretary

MRS. E. HALES, Chief Sanitary Inspector's Secretary

One Senior Female Clerk

One Shorthand-Typist

Four Clerk/Typists

Three Clerks — General Division

Two Junior Clerks



*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is my second Annual Report and is compiled in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/55.

## HEALTH SERVICES

### Vital Statistics

The figures recorded in 1955 were generally satisfactory. The birth rate, 16·0 per thousand, was lower than in 1954, but the death rate, 10·9 per thousand, was higher than the record low figure recorded in the previous year. The infant mortality rate, though still above the national average, was the lowest reported for the borough, 26·5 per thousand, and was below the average for the Midland area generally. Prematurity was once again the principal cause of death in the first year of life, but in an analysis of the figures for 1954 and 1955, found in the section on Maternal and Child Health, it will be seen that premature babies had a slightly better chance of survival in West Bromwich than in England and Wales generally in 1954. The existence of the Premature Baby Unit at Hallam Hospital has much to do with this satisfactory state of affairs, and it was possible during the year for members of the nursing staff of the Health Department to attend sessions held at the Unit by the Consultant Paediatrician.

### Cancer of the lung

The steady rise in the number of people dying from cancer of the lung has not become apparent in West Bromwich because of the very high death rate from tuberculosis in the town. In England and Wales generally, the number of deaths from lung cancer is nearly treble that from all forms of tuberculosis, but in this borough it was only in 1955 that the total of deaths from cancer of the lung exceeded those from tuberculosis.

In the past ten years, 256 West Bromwich residents—six times as many men as women—have died from cancer of the lung, and in 1955, more than one in eight of all deaths of men aged between 25 and 65 years was due to cancer of the lung. As was stated by the Minister of Health in the House of Commons on the 8th May, 1956, the statistical evidence tends to show that mortality from this condition is twenty times greater among heavy smokers than among non-smokers. It has been estimated that approximately 9% of men, aged 25 years, who smoke between 25 and 50 cigarettes a day, might be expected to die of lung cancer before they reach the age of 75.



## Bronchitis

There is evidence that people living in industrial areas where there is much atmospheric pollution, more commonly die from cancer of the lung and from bronchitis than people in country districts, and the contrast between experience in this country generally and in Scandinavian countries is illustrated in an appendix to the report. Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases account for more than one-quarter of all the conditions necessitating convalescence during 1955. Therefore, the introduction of the Clean Air Bill by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on July 26th 1955, is greatly to be welcomed.

## Infectious Disease

### (I) ACUTE INFECTIONS

#### Common Fevers

There was an increased incidence of infectious disease in 1955 than there was in 1954. There was a total of 994 notifications of measles, the second highest in the past ten years, and there were two deaths from the disease during the year. The number of notifications of whooping cough, on the other hand, was the lowest since 1946, and it is more than likely that the decreased incidence of the disease in the past two years is linked with the introduction of a large scale immunisation campaign. There was one death from whooping cough during the year in a child aged 11 months, a fact which demonstrates that this disease still has dangers in infancy.

Scarlet fever has again remained relatively uncommon. There was a total of 65 notifications, but the type of case notified was mild and there was no death from the disease.

#### Diphtheria

There was one notification of diphtheria during the year in a school child who had been immunised in infancy but had not received a reinforcement injection when she entered school. The illness was mild and the child has made a good recovery.

#### Meningococcal infection

There were four notifications of cases of meningococcal infection, and all those affected have made satisfactory recoveries.

#### Poliomyelitis

Seven persons were notified as suffering from poliomyelitis. Five of them have made good recoveries, but two people, a man aged 26 years and a girl aged 14 years, died from fulminating forms of the infection. It is known that 44 persons have contracted the disease since January 1949, and the present condition of 41 surviving patients, who are still living

in the area, has been reviewed. Twenty patients, 45·5% of the total, have made complete recoveries, and only seven — two adults and five children — are severely disabled. Of the eighteen children affected, fifteen are attending, or will be able to attend, ordinary schools.

### **Salmonella infection**

An account is given of ten cases of this disease occurring during the year. Despite detailed investigations the sources of the infections were not discovered, though in one small outbreak of *Salmonella thompson* infection, egg albumen imported from China was believed, but not proved, to be the cause. Advice was given to local bakers on the use of albumen.

### **B. Coli infection**

An account is given of an investigation which has been carried out into the subsequent history of infants who are believed to have acquired a mild intestinal infection shortly after birth in the maternity unit of a hospital. The evidence so far accumulated seems to suggest that the infection has been of little importance in their subsequent health and development.

### **Metallic food poisoning**

An account is given of an outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting which followed a meal prepared at a school canteen and consumed by pupils and staff at three schools. Of the 415 members of the teaching and canteen staff and children at risk, 60 people were affected. The pattern of the illnesses, which were mild in character, was similar to those described in an outbreak in 1954. Bacteriological examination was essentially negative, but it was found that equipment in the kitchen was not in a completely satisfactory state. In an experiment reproducing the conditions in which the boiled beef, which was part of the main dish of the meal, was prepared, it was found that portions of the meat were contaminated with copper.

## **(II) TUBERCULOSIS**

Although the numbers of notifications (141) and deaths (32) from this disease were slightly lower in 1955 than in 1954, the whole picture gives little cause for complacency. As in the previous year, nearly one-half of the total of male patients notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and more than three-fifths of the females notified, were persons aged from 15 to 44 years, the principal productive years of life.

An account is given of the very successful campaign of B.C.G. vaccination which was carried out during the year and the early part of 1956. Vaccination was offered to 1,435 school children, and 1,085 (75·5%)



accepted. The percentage of acceptances ranged from 88% in Cronehills Technical School to 62% in Hill Top Secondary Modern Boys School. The percentage of children mantoux positive — who had already come into contact with tuberculosis infection — ranged from 33·3% in the case of girls in Cronehills Technical School, to 12·1% in Spon Lane Secondary Modern Girls School. It is likely, however, that the percentage positive in Cronehills Technical School is a more accurate indication of the overall picture because in Spon Lane Secondary Modern Girls School less than two-thirds of the children eligible for inclusion in the scheme were tested.

The children at Cronehills Technical and Charlemont Secondary Modern Girls Schools, whose mantoux tests were strongly positive, were referred to the Chest Clinic for chest X-rays, and it was possible later in the year for all the children who were mantoux positive to be referred to a Mass Miniature Radiography Unit. As a result, six school children were found to be suffering from active tuberculosis.

In December 1955, the first of a series of X-ray surveys on districts was commenced in the Friar Park area, and later in that month a Unit to which general practitioners and local health departments referred patients, began to visit the town for one day in every fortnight. The opportunity has been taken to arrange for the chest X-ray of all new Corporation employees and mantoux positive school children at these fortnightly sessions.

Care of the  
Expectant  
Mother

At a time when the evidence of the Guillebaud Committee indicates that “the maternity services are in a state of some confusion, which must impair their usefulness, and which should not be allowed to continue,” I am glad to report that attendances at ante-natal clinics in 1955 were substantially higher than in 1954, the totals being 3,690 and 2,724 respectively, and that for the fourth year in the last six, no West Bromwich woman died in or as a result of childbirth.

Nursing  
Service

#### (i) Midwifery

For the first time since 1948, the number of babies born at home increased and the percentage of domiciliary confinements rose from 43·8% in 1954 to 48·1% in 1955. In addition, the midwives were very fully occupied with the increasing number of babies discharged from hospital maternity units within the first fortnight of life. More than 60% of mothers received gas and air analgesia, and pethidine was given to nearly half of the cases in which the midwife was acting on her own responsibility.

## **(ii) Health Visiting**

The health visitors paid fewer visits than in 1954 because difficulty was found in replacing two members of the staff who retired during the year. As usual, most visits were to children aged less than five years, but a large number of visits were made to report on preliminary assessments of priority in housing cases, and to report on the degree of urgency that was necessary for the admission of old persons to the wards for the chronically sick at Hallam Hospital.

## **(iii) Home Nursing**

During the year the number of patients nursed increased by 25% and reached a record total of 1,003. The total number of visits similarly increased to 32,353. Rather more than half the visits — 16,297 — were paid to patients over 65 years of age, compared with 30 to patients aged less than five years. During the year substantial improvements were made in the transport facilities for members of the staff.

### **Vaccination**

The percentage of infants vaccinated against small-pox in West Bromwich, which in 1953 and 1954 was at a disappointingly low level, increased to the highest figure for several years, in 1955. The total number of primary vaccinations carried out in 1955 was 407 compared with 270 in 1954, and the percentage of infants vaccinated was 26.4% compared with 16.0% in the previous year.

In the second half of the year vaccination was offered at every clinic session at each infant welfare clinic. Following discussions with members of the local medical committee and consideration by the Health Committee, it was found possible late in the year to implement two of the proposals made by the Council under the National Health Service Act 1946, by distributing literature advocating vaccination at the time when the birth of the baby was registered, and by following this up with reminders to parents and general practitioners when the baby reached the age of four months. Preliminary figures indicate that the relatively high percentage of infants vaccinated in 1955, which unfortunately is still below the level for England and Wales generally, will be substantially increased in 1956.

### **Immunisation**

During the second half of the year, immunisation against diphtheria, usually in the form of combined diphtheria-whooping cough antigen, was offered in clinics to children from the age of four months onwards.



An intensive campaign to increase the percentage of school children immunised was begun in November 1955. By the end of March 1956, more than 2,000 school children had received either a primary course of injections or reinforcement injections.

As a result of these arrangements, the percentage of children immunised before the end of the year of their birth had increased from 2.7% in 1954 to 11.5% in 1955, and the percentage of children, aged up to fourteen years, who had been immunised in the past five years, increased from 37.6% to 43.9%.

Ambulance  
Service

Calls on the ambulance service increased still further in 1955, and once again the total of patients carried and mileage covered was a record. There are signs that in the Yew Tree Estate area many patients are being taken to hospitals in Walsall.

The Guillebaud Committee expresses the view that radio control on ambulance fleets "is a very good means of effecting further savings in the cost of the service in many areas." This view has been supported by a subsequent Ministry of Health Circular 5/56, which is about to be considered by the Health Committee.

Mental  
Illness

The number of West Bromwich residents admitted to mental hospitals increased from 103 in 1954 to 112 in 1955. Nearly one-third of all admissions were made on 3, 7 or 14 day Orders, while the number of patients certified on admission was less than one-quarter of the total in 1951. A survey of the eventual classification of patients admitted during the year showed that more than 72% became voluntary patients. An impressive feature of present day treatment in mental hospitals, is that of the 90 patients discharged during the year, more than 70% had been in hospital less than three months, and 85% less than six months.

Mental  
Deficiency

The work of the Occupation Centre continued to develop satisfactorily. Advertisements for a male Occupation Centre Supervisor to deal mainly with the older boys produced no response, but a second female assistant supervisor took up her duties in September 1955. During the year the number of children attending increased, and at the end of the Christmas Term, 1955, 33 children were attending.

Consideration was given by the Health Committee to the difficulties experienced by some parents in accompanying the children to and from the Centre. It was found that 21 children made 'bus journeys, and four of them had to change 'buses en route. In eleven cases the length of each journey was more than 30 minutes. The Council accepted a recommendation that a special 'bus should be provided, and a service in

which journeys of approximately eleven miles are made in the mornings and afternoons, commenced on the 5th December, 1955. The parents contribute towards the cost of the service and to two of their members who act as escorts on these journeys. The scheme has proved to be very successful, and attendance at the Centre during the winter months has improved.

Provision  
of Infant  
Welfare  
Clinics

In February 1955 the Council was informed that the Minister of Health could not approve the erection of a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre on the Yew Tree Estate. Suggestions were made that it might be possible to share clinic facilities which already existed in Walsall County Borough, or that the need on the Estate might be met by adapting a Council house. The Council might also want to consider with the Walsall County Borough whether a new clinic near the boundary lines could not serve the needs of the residents of both authorities.

A meeting of representatives of members and officers from the two County Borough Councils in July 1955, produced no solution to the problem, and later in the year a plan for a separate Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic was abandoned in favour of a building which combined the activities of a community centre, library and clinic.

The needs of the mothers and children on the estate had, however, become very urgent. During 1955, 327 dwellings had been completed, and at the end of the year it was known that more than 1,000 families containing nearly 800 children aged less than five years, were living in the area. In view of these circumstances the Housing Committee agreed to the conversion of four garages, three of which had previously been used as a chemist's shop and a rent office, into a temporary welfare clinic, which will be opened in August, 1956.

During the year there was also extensive housing development in the Great Barr area. As a result of happy co-operation between the Baths and Estates, Civic Catering and Health Committees, it was possible to make plans to redecorate the ground floor of the Red House in Red House Park, and to adapt two of the rooms for use on one day weekly as an infant welfare clinic. Arrangements have been made for clinic sessions to start in May 1956.

Home Help  
Service

The Home Help Service had another busy year and, as in previous years, nearly half the patients helped were people aged over 75 years. A successful refresher course was held in November, and as a result of publicity which was given about the need for more recruits,



the number of home helps employed had risen to 43 in April 1956. The experiment of employing a selected home help with a problem family continued during the year, and at a meeting of the Housing Committee, with interested Committees of the Council, held in January 1956, approval was given to a recommendation to designate 17 hard-core problem families as being suitable for assistance by the Health Committee, using mainly members of the Home Help Service.

#### Unfit Houses

Extracts from the reports submitted by local authorities to the Minister of Housing and Local Government under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, published in November 1955, show that out of nearly thirteen million permanent houses in England and Wales, about 850,000 were estimated to be unfit. In West Bromwich the problem is even greater because of 26,066 houses in the area, 4,000 were considered unfit. It is proposed that 1,400 will be demolished in the next five years — 500 in Clearance Areas — and that 1,000 houses will be retained as temporary accommodation. All these houses are considered to have irreparable defects: many are back to back; others have inadequate natural lighting, water supplies and sanitary conveniences, which must inevitably have a blighting effect upon the people who live in them.





Dental  
Health

More expectant and nursing mothers and children under five were treated in 1955 than in 1954, and was partially due to the institution of an evening dental surgery for mothers, in October.

Illness  
in Infancy

During 1955 it is known that 151 West Bromwich infants, twice as many boys as girls, were admitted to local hospitals, and that nine of these children died. The most common causes of admissions were bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia, congenital diseases and gastro-enteritis. The fact that more than 10% of children in the borough were admitted in their first year of life to hospitals and occupied an average of six beds, suggests that it might be advisable to start a domiciliary nursing service for young children.

## WELFARE SERVICES

These services have continued to develop in 1955, and the number of aged and handicapped persons known to the department has steadily increased.

Residential  
Accommoda-  
tion

There have been minor fluctuations in the population of the three Homes in the borough, and it has become increasingly obvious that several of the elderly ladies are becoming very infirm. Approval was given by the Minister of Health for the commencement of work on the Home for 42 persons on the Yew Tree Estate, to begin in the financial year 1955-56, and building actually started at the end of March, 1956.

Co-operation  
with  
Voluntary  
Organisations

### (i) "Meals on Wheels"

The Women's Voluntary Services took over the "Meals on Wheels" Service on the 1st October. The scheme has proved to be outstandingly successful, and by April 1956, 43 old people were receiving a two course meal once a week.

### (ii) Handicapped Persons

The Association for the Welfare of Physically Handicapped persons has developed rapidly and the Chief Welfare Officer and other members of the staff have attended its meetings. A very successful Christmas Party was held in January 1956, and assistance has readily been given to physically handicapped persons in need.

Arrangements are being made for visits and, if necessary, the circulation of library books to the fairly extensive list of handicapped people which has been built up.

Temporary  
Accommodation

Under proposals made in connection with the National Assistance Act, 1948, temporary accommodation for persons in need of it because of fire, flooding or other unforeseen circumstances, was made available at The Poplars, Wolverhampton. In practice, on the



rare occasions when accommodation has been required generally the Housing Committee have made accommodation available. These extreme cases are rare but families not infrequently find themselves homeless for other reasons. Sometimes they are people living with relatives, when a family quarrel forces them out on to the streets, and at other times they are people classed as unsatisfactory tenants, of whom the hard-core consists of problem families. In these families the so-called "temporary" accommodation tends inevitably to become permanent unless a determined effort is made to rehabilitate the parents.

During the year the Welfare Services Committee gave consideration to the provision of special temporary accommodation, either by the conversion of existing buildings in the grounds of one of the Homes or by the erection of accommodation which at a later date could be converted to other uses.

"Half-way"  
House

In September 1950, the possibility of obtaining special accommodation for elderly and infirm persons was raised in the Welfare Services Committee. Correspondence followed with the Minister of Health and at that time he refused to give permission to such a project, expressing "considerable doubt whether local authorities have power to provide accommodation of the type proposed" and in general the Minister considered the course to be undesirable. He suggested instead that there should be an interchange of six residents in "The Poplars" with six infirm patients in the wards of the chronically sick at Hallam Hospital.

During 1955 the idea was revived and a survey made in November of people in the town who might be suitable for such a Home. It was found that in the intervening years the conditions of potentially suitable people had materially improved, largely because the Nursing and Home Help Services, helped, of course, by the recently started "Meals on Wheels" Service, had made domiciliary care much more efficient. The position, however, will be reviewed later in 1956.

Members of the Guillebaud Committee gave a classification of the division of responsibility between hospital and welfare authorities, deplored the possible reappearance of infirmary wards in local authority residential accommodation, and did not "wish the notion to be allowed to develop that there is a gap between the hospital and local authority services for the treatment and care of the aged which can only be filled by the provision of the 'half-way houses'".

Housing of  
the elderly

At the end of 1955, 82 elderly people were residents in accommodation provided under the National Assistance Act by the local authority, and more than

50 were long-stay patients in one of the local hospitals, mainly in the wards for the chronically sick. The other people aged over 65 years — more than 98% of the total — lived in their own homes.

The Corporation has built 122 old people's dwellings, and many elderly persons occupy ground floor flats. In February and March 1955, a group of old people's bungalows, linked by a central community room, were completed on the Yew Tree Estate, and it is known that two voluntary trusts provide bungalows for aged couples and two-roomed flats for elderly ladies. The Minister of Housing and Local Government stated on May 1st 1956, that he had decided to enquire into the arrangements that are being made for housing elderly persons, in order "to see whether, having regard to the requirements of other sections of the population, old people are receiving a reasonable share of the accommodation provided and whether this is of the kind best fitted to their physical needs and financial circumstances".

Welfare of  
Coloured  
Persons

In the Annual Report for 1954 I stated that a survey of the position in June 1955 disclosed that there were about 450 coloured persons resident in West Bromwich. Nearly 200 of these people, often in family groups, came from the West Indies, and more than 250 were mainly men from India and Pakistan. A further survey carried out by Sanitary Inspectors in May and June 1956, showed that the total of coloured persons had increased to nearly 800.

There have been two further cases of tuberculosis amongst these people, and it has been difficult to control overcrowding. Contact was made by the Town Clerk with the High Commissioners for India and Pakistan, and the Deputy High Commissioner for India visited the town and called at some of the addresses where coloured people were living, in August 1955. A conference was held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall on the 29th October 1955, at which an Indian Welfare Council was set up. Its objects were to assist the assimilation of immigrants, to seek the co-operation of local authorities and other organisations, and to raise funds so that advice, information or other assistance could be given to Indians and possibly, if the objectives of the Council were widened, to people from other countries. A representative of the High Commissioner for Pakistan visited the borough in March 1956.

## ADMINISTRATION

Considerable difficulty was experienced in appointing a successor to Dr. R. Lindop, who resigned his full-time appointment as Senior Assistant Medical Officer



of Health on the 31st May 1955, and the Council decided to change the post to one of Deputy Medical Officer of Health. Dr. M. Park was appointed to this position and took up his duties on the 5th December, 1955. Much of the routine work of the department, particularly in respect of school medical inspections, had fallen into arrears, and approval was given to an increase in the establishment of Assistant Medical Officers of Health from one full-time and one part-time to two full-time doctors.

---

Alderman J. T. H. Davies, who had been a member of the Council since 1919, retired in May 1955. He was Chairman of the Health Committee for more than 20 years, and of the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee since it was created in 1948. He was Vice-Chairman of the West Bromwich and District Hospital Management Committee, from which he retired in March 1956. I am sure that my predecessors in the post of Medical Officer of Health would wish to join me in expressing to him best wishes for a long and happy retirement. He has been a member of the West Bromwich Executive Council of the National Health Service since June 1947, and continues to play a very active part in its affairs.

During the year two members of the nursing staff, Mrs. E. Heaven, who was Matron of the Day Nursery from January 1942 to January 1954, and Health Nurse from February 1954, and Miss E. King, who had worked as a Health Visitor for this authority since 1939, retired. They had both given valuable and much appreciated service to the Corporation and to thousands of mothers in the borough.

Mr. W. S. Terry, who had worked as part-time Psychiatric Social Worker since 1950, resigned from the appointment on leaving the area in June 1955. He had done excellent work in developing this worth while service.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, Dr. Fleming, the officers of the other Corporation Departments, and medical practitioners in the Borough for the help they have given during the year. I am especially grateful to the members of the staff of the Health Department

who have been responsible for the activities which are described in this report and have willingly worked long hours in its preparation.

Yours faithfully,

J. F. SKONE.

*Medical Officer of Health  
& Chief Welfare Officer.*

Public Health Department,  
2, Lodge Road,  
West Bromwich.  
28th May, 1956.

The illustrations are by David Hamilton, a student at the Ryland School of Art.



# VITAL STATISTICS

## GENERAL

AREA OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH (Acres)	..	..	7,172
POPULATION (estimated mid-year 1955)	..	..	89,640

The adult male population of this country can be classified for statistical purposes into five main occupation groups. The numbers in each group in every thousand of this population in West Bromwich compared with the average for England and Wales as a whole are as follows :---

		<i>Census, 1951</i>	
		<i>West Bromwich</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Professional occupations	..	18	33
Intermediate occupations	..	114	150
Skilled occupations	..	555	527
Partly skilled occupations	..	171	162
Unskilled occupations	..	142	128
No. OF INHABITED HOUSES (according to rate books			
31st December, 1955)	..	..	26,129
RATEABLE VALUE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH (31st			
December, 1955)	..	..	£499,392
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (1955-1956)	..		£2,000

<i>Year</i>	<i>National Health Service Act, 1946</i>		<i>National Assistance Act, 1948</i>		<i>Other Health Services</i>	
	<i>Gross Cost</i>	<i>Net Cost</i>	<i>Gross Cost</i>	<i>Net Cost</i>	<i>Gross Cost</i>	<i>Net Cost</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1948-49	25,520	11,974	12,435	8,357	52,066	45,029
1949-50	39,263	17,706	18,164	12,277	50,334	43,995
1950-51	48,913	21,768	16,740	11,192	54,062	48,212
1951-52	53,817	21,977	18,708	13,517	62,567	52,204
1952-53	60,493	26,398	23,936	16,114	66,993	60,007
1953-54	61,911	27,794	24,479	15,693	71,418	66,048
1954-55	64,535	29,777	28,781	19,449	70,082	66,150

## BIRTHS

### Live

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	691	695	1,386
Illegitimate	..	..	28	20	48

Total 1,434

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 16.0

### Still

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	21	17	38
Illegitimate	..	..	1	2	3
					41

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 live and still-births = 27.8

## DEATHS

### All Causes

<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
541	438	979

Death Rate per 1,000 population = 10.9

60.2% of the total deaths occurred in persons aged 65 years or over.

## DEATHS DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS

### Principal Causes of Deaths

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Cancer .. ..	138	145	127	151	154	165	128	149	132	167
Heart Diseases .. ..	161	208	184	198	256	275	199	211	221	251
Pneumonia .. ..	40	66	41	49	46	43	33	32	24	33
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases ..	90	115	81	113	69	96	82	107	84	115
Vascular lesions .. ..	99	98	73	112	113	103	113	121	97	124
Tuberculosis :										
Pulmonary .. ..	57	59	63	66	50	39	27	27	32	30
Non-Pulmonary .. ..	9	10	10	10	3	6	4	6	3	2

### Deaths from Violent Causes

There were 34 deaths from violent causes, eight from suicide, eight as a result of road accidents and eighteen others.

### Maternal Mortality

Rate per 1,000 births (live and still) .. .. nil

### Infant Mortality

No. of deaths of infants under 1 year .. 38  
 Rate per 1,000 relevant live births .. 26.5  
 Legitimate rate per 1,000 relevant live births 27.4  
 Illegitimate rate per 1,000 relevant live births nil

## INFANT DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS FOR 10 YEARS 1946 — 1955

<i>Year</i>	<i>Under 1 month</i>	<i>1—3 month</i>	<i>3—6 month</i>	<i>6—9 month</i>	<i>9—12 month</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Infant Death Rate</i>
1946	38	15	17	10	6	86	50
1947	37	17	20	16	6	96	55
1948	38	18	23	8	2	89	53
1949	31	19	24	6	3	83	49
1950	22	9	6	7	3	47	30
1951	23	7	9	3	3	45	30
1952	31	9	7	5	2	54	36
1953	22	9	7	6	1	45	30
1954	43	3	6	2	2	56	37
1955	23	4	8	—	3	38	26



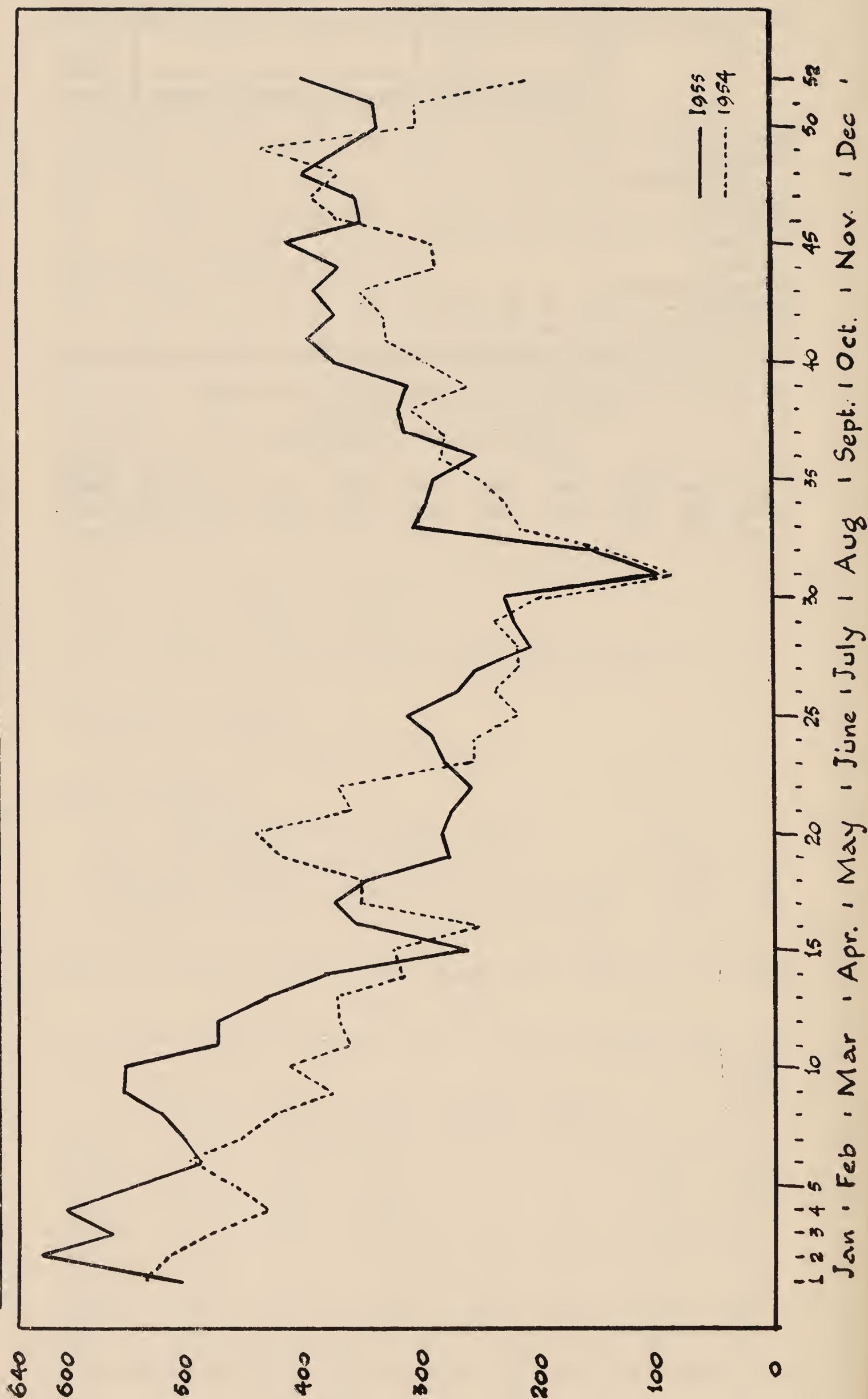
INFANT DEATHS, 1955 — CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Under 1 month</i>	<i>1—3 months</i>	<i>3—6 months</i>	<i>6—9 months</i>	<i>9—12 months</i>	<i>Total under 1 year</i>
Prematurity ..	14	—	—	—	—	14
Congenital malformations ..	5	—	—	—	—	5
Bronchitis.. ..	—	—	2	—	—	2
Pneumonia ..	—	2	4	—	2	8
Asphyxia ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diarrhoea ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Circulatory ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other causes ..	2	1	2	—	—	5

NEO-NATAL DEATHS IN 1955  
*WHEN DEATH OCCURRED*

<i>1st day</i>	<i>2nd day</i>	<i>3rd day</i>	<i>4th day</i>	<i>5th day</i>	<i>6th day</i>	<i>7th day</i>	<i>1—2 weeks</i>	<i>2—3 weeks</i>	<i>3—4 weeks</i>	<i>Deaths under 1 month</i>
12	2	1	—	1	1	—	2	3	1	23

Number of New Claims for Sickness Benefit per Week (Ministry of National Insurance Returns)





## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### (a) COMMON FEVERS

#### (i) Measles

	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Over 14</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male ..	21	254	195	7	—	477
Female ..	24	269	220	3	1	517

The total of notifications was the second highest in the past ten years.

There were two deaths during the year.

#### (ii) Whooping Cough

	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Over 14</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male ..	2	14	16	—	—	32
Female ..	7	20	9	1	—	37

It will be seen that the total of notifications in 1955 was the lowest since 1946.

1946 ..	195	1951 ..	241
1947 ..	123	1952 ..	374
1948 ..	206	1953 ..	455
1949 ..	225	1954 ..	124
1950 ..	256	1955 ..	69

The decreased incidence in the past two years is partially accounted for by the introduction of a large-scale immunisation campaign against the disease.

There was one death during the year.

#### (iii) Scarlet Fever

	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Over 14</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male ..	—	7	21	4	—	32
Female ..	—	8	24	1	—	33

Twenty-three persons were admitted to hospital mainly because conditions were unsuitable for home nursing. Nearly 80% of the cases occurred during the 1st and 4th quarters of the year. The type of case notified was mild, the incidence of complications very small, and there was no death from the disease.

## (b) DIPHTHERIA

There was one notification of this disease during the year in a school child who had been immunised in infancy but had not received a reinforcement injection when she entered school. The illness was mild and the child made a complete recovery.

## (c) MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS

There were four notifications of cases of meningococcal infection. They were in respect of children, aged 10 years, 6 years, 5 years and 17 months, and all have made satisfactory recoveries.

## (d) POLIOMYELITIS

Seven persons were notified as suffering from poliomyelitis. Five of them made satisfactory recoveries, but two people, a man aged 26 years and a girl aged 14 years, died from fulminating forms of the infection.

It will be seen from the following table that our experience with poliomyelitis in West Bromwich in the past ten years has been very fortunate. In all there have been only 52 cases and only four people have died. The most vulnerable age group in which nearly half the cases have occurred has consisted of children aged between two and nine years, and it is to all these children that the vaccination has been given initially.

### *Incidence of Poliomyelitis in West Bromwich — 1946 to 1955*

Year	Total		No. of deaths
1946	1	(—)	—
1947	6	(—)	1
1948	1	(—)	1
1949	2	(—)	—
1950	15	(8)	—
1951	2	(2)	—
1952	9	(6)	—
1953	3	(2)	—
1954	6	(2)	—
1955	7	(3)	2

The number of cases occurring in children aged between 2–9 years is indicated in brackets.

Since 1949, cases have been classified as being paralytic or non-paralytic, and of the 44 notifications received since the beginning of that year, 33 have been of the paralytic form and 11 of the non-paralytic form of the disease.

A review has been made by Dr. Margaret Shields, of the condition of the surviving patients who have contracted the disease since January 1949. Of the 44 cases, the youngest patient was six weeks old at the time of onset, and the oldest 32 years. In all, 23 males and 21 females were affected, and the age distribution of all cases in the period is shown in the following table :—



<i>Age</i>	<i>0-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 plus</i>
Number of cases . . . . .	18	20	6

Two patients died (4·5%), and one has left the district and no details of her condition are known.

Of the remainder, twenty patients have made a complete recovery (45·5%) and twenty-one (47·7%) have residual disabilities of varying degrees.

Three of these cases were adults at the time of onset of the disease. One man has been able to return to his former employment although his disability is severe and he has to have special transport to and from his work.

Both women were married at the time of onset, and both are able to look after their homes. One has to have part-time domestic help, but is able to drive a mechanically propelled invalid chair.

In the group of 18 handicapped children, three are being educated in special schools, and the remaining fifteen are attending or will be able to attend, ordinary schools, in spite of the fact that nine of these children are wearing surgical supports of varying types.

It is interesting to note that of the eighteen children suffering from residual disability, the ten most severely handicapped were all under the age of seven years when stricken with poliomyelitis.

#### (e) **SALMONELLA INFECTION**

In May, a girl, aged three months, was admitted to hospital suffering from *Salmonella anatum* infection. Her condition deteriorated over a period of two weeks and she died from what appeared to be an acute asthmatical attack.

Later that month, a boy, aged thirteen months, was admitted to hospital suffering from *Salmonella thompson*. Two other members of the family were infected and at about the same time other people in the Birmingham area were notified as suffering from the disease. Small outbreaks were reported from other towns and the possibility of a link between the local cases was discussed with Dr. K. W. Newell, of the Central Public Health Laboratory, Dr. E. L. M. Millar, Deputy Medical Officer of Health of Birmingham, and Dr. B. R. Sandiford, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham.

A girl, aged thirteen months, was admitted to hospital in June suffering from *Salmonella stanley* infection. Stool specimens were obtained from the occupants of two adjacent houses containing 41 coloured occupants. Stool specimens were obtained from twenty Indians living at these addresses and all were negative, but three family contacts of the girl were found to be excreting the organism. Another member of the family, a boy aged two years, had been admitted to hospital in April, suffering from *Salmonella-typhi-murium* infection.

A girl, aged fourteen years, was notified as suffering from paratyphoid fever (Phage Type Taunton) in September.

Despite detailed investigations the sources of infection in these outbreaks were not discovered. Imported egg albumen was suspected but not proved to be the cause of the cases of *Salmonella thompson* infections.

#### **(f) B. COLI INFECTION OF NEWBORN INFANTS**

Information was received that a baby born in the Maternity Unit of a local hospital in May and transferred to a Home in Birmingham late in June, developed diarrhoea soon after admission. *B. Coli* 055 was isolated from the stools, and after consultation with the Clinical Pathologist at the Children's Hospital it was arranged for specimens to be collected from a 1 in 5 sample of West Bromwich babies born in the Maternity Unit between the beginning of May and mid-July. Of the 132 infants concerned, specimens were obtained from 28, and three proved to be positive.

They were from the following babies :—

- (1) girl, born 4.5.55. *B. Coli* 0119 isolated.

Specimens were obtained from other members of the household, and the mother was shown to be excreting the same organism.

- (2) boy, born 16.5.55. *B. Coli* 026 isolated.

- (3) girl, born 12.6.55. *B. Coli* 055K isolated.

A further survey of infants born between 17th July and 27th July, was then carried out. Stools were submitted from fifteen of the 30 children concerned, and four proved to be positive.

They were :—

- (1) girl, born 17.7.55 *B. Coli* 0119 isolated.

- (2) girl, born 18.7.55. *B. Coli* 0119 isolated.

- (3) girl, born 19.7.55. *B. Coli* 026 isolated.

- (4) boy, born 22.7.55. *B. Coli* 0119 isolated.

Since then, the infants whose stools proved to be positive have been followed up regularly, but none of them appears to have had any illness in which diarrhoea was a symptom.

Stool specimens from these infants, examined in April 1956, did not show the presence of any pathogenic organism.

#### **(g) FOOD POISONING**

There was an outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting on the 6th and 7th December 1955, believed to have followed a meal prepared in a school canteen and served in three schools on the 6th December.



### (i) Clinical features

The number of persons who might have been affected in the three schools was just over 400, and the ages of the children and members of the staffs affected can be summarised as follows :—

6 years of age	..	..	..	3
11   "   "   "	..	..	..	5
12   "   "   "	..	..	..	18
13   "   "   "	..	..	..	5
14   "   "   "	..	..	..	9
15 plus	..	..	..	20

In all, 60 persons were affected, the average interval between eating the food and the onset of the illness being fifteen hours. Some of the victims began to have symptoms as early as 8-0 p.m. on the 6th December, that is rather less than eight hours after eating the meal, but in most cases the onset was at about 3-0 a.m. on the 7th December.

The main symptoms consisted of diarrhoea and abdominal pain for two to twenty-four hours. Two people complained of vomiting and others of nausea. The illness was mild in character and most people affected were back at work or in school on the following morning. Three members of the kitchen staff were affected but did not report the incident until the late afternoon on the 7th December.

Ten children and one adult were unfit to attend school for one day, and two children for three days. None of those affected was seriously ill and in most instances the illness lasted for a few hours only.

Faecal specimens from persons affected, and a sample of the meal eaten on the 6th December, were subjected to bacteriological investigation but no pathogen was isolated. Nose and throat swabs were taken from members of the kitchen staff and were similarly negative. Unfortunately the meal was thrown away in the laboratory before it could be submitted to chemical analysis.

One curious feature of the outbreak was that in a secondary modern school the girls only were affected. The boys and girls had similar meals which were sent to each department in separate containers, and the children and members of the staff were served separately.

### (ii) Probable origin of contamination of food

The meal which was suspected consisted of :—

*Main Dish* : Boiled beef, carrots, potatoes.

*Sweet* : Apple tart and custard.

All the ingredients were prepared on the day on which the food was eaten. The pattern of the illness appeared to be similar to that in an unexplained outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting which followed a meal prepared at a School Meals Centre and consumed on the 23rd September, 1954. In that outbreak which was described in the Annual Report for 1954, 40 children and members of the staffs complained of diarrhoea and sickness, which came on suddenly and lasted only a few hours. The interval between the ingestion of the meal and the onset of the illness varied from four to twelve hours. On that occasion the main dish was cold boiled beef, potatoes with margarine squares, salad mayonnaise, and the sweet was apricot crumble and custard. Bacteriological examinations were negative and no chemical analysis was made.

Looking back on both incidents, it seemed possible that there was a common cause, and when the steam-jacketed boiler in the canteen was examined, it was found that the base plate and the sides of the boiler were bare of tin, and in fact there was flaking of metal on the surface of the base plate. Since the meal had, unfortunately, been thrown away, the conditions under which the beef was prepared were re-created, and portions of the meat and gravy were submitted for chemical analysis. The results showed that there was a varying degree of contamination with copper in various portions of beef submitted, ranging from 28·7 parts per million to 80·8 parts per million. There was a small amount of copper — 1·1 parts per million, in the gravy.

The Meals Centre was visited, and it was found that a similar method of preparation of the beef had been employed there. Since the incident in 1954, the base plate had been re-tinned, but at the time of the previous episode it had not been re-tinned for nearly four years, and before the tinning had been done it was noticed that potatoes boiled in the container had been stained green. Milk used in making custard had been boiled in a double-panned water-jacketed porringer, and it was noticed that the tinned copper lining was well worn. A sample of milk from this porringer showed contamination with copper to the extent of 4 parts per million.

### **(iii) Conclusion**

Although contamination of food stuffs with copper to this extent is most undesirable, it is impossible to say with certainty that the outbreaks were due to metallic poisoning. However, it is clear that it is of the utmost importance that any copper equipment should be re-tinned at frequent intervals.



(h) DYSENTERY

Three children were notified as suffering from dysentery. They were aged two years, nine and three months respectively, and have made good recoveries.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Details of the returns of cases of venereal disease from West Bromwich treated at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below :—

	<i>Birmingham</i>			<i>Dudley</i>	<i>Total</i>
Syphilis .. ..	2	—			2
Gonorrhoea .. ..	13	1			14
Conditions other than venereal	25	8			33
	—	—			—
	40	9			49
	—	—			—

There has been a substantial fall in attendances over the past few years as can be seen in the following table :—

	<i>1950</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
Syphilis .. ..	5	11	13	8	4	2
Gonorrhoea .. ..	11	18	34	14	16	14
Others .. ..	81	61	72	68	65	33
Totals .. ..	97	90	119	90	85	49

TUBERCULOSIS

Report by Dr. C. W. D. Cole, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
Chest Physician

Staff

The staff engaged in carrying out the duties of the local health authority with regard to tuberculosis under Section 28 of the National Health Services Act, 1946, are :—

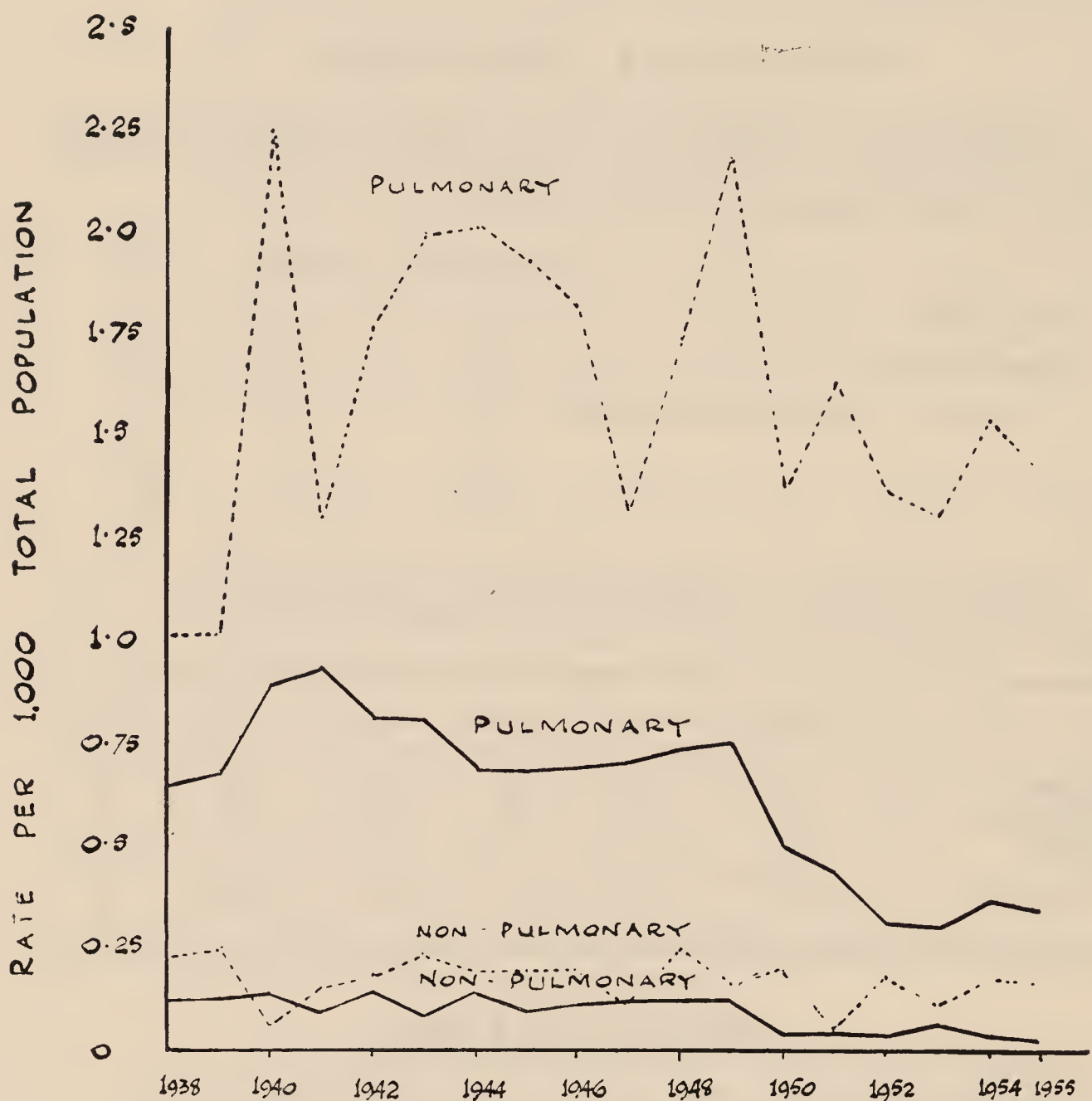
Dr, C. W. D. Cole :	Chest Physician to the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.	Proportion of whole-time — 2/11ths.
	Two Tuberculosis Health Visitors.	Whole-time.

In 1955 there was very little change in the incidence of tuberculosis, in West Bromwich, from the previous year. There was a total of 141 cases of tuberculosis, of which 14 were non-pulmonary, notified during the year. The total was 9 less than the previous year, but this may well not be really significant. There were 32 deaths, 3 less than the previous year.

# TUBERCULOSIS

## MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY 1938 - 1955

DEATHS — NOTIFICATIONS .....



The details of cases notified and deaths from tuberculosis, in 1955, are as follows :

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	5	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—14	7	9	6	5	—	—	—	1
15—24	11	13	1	—	—	1	—	—
25—44	24	15	—	1	7	3	1	—
45—64	33	3	—	—	12	3	—	—
65 & over	5	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
Totals	85	42	7	7	22	8	1	1

The facilities available for the diagnosis of tuberculosis in the town remained the same as in previous years for most of the year. During December miniature films were arranged for certain groups of the population but have not resulted in many cases of tuberculosis being discovered.



## B.C.G. Vaccination

The scheme outlined in the Annual Report for 1954 was put into operation on the 29th April, 1955. The first two schools to be included were Cronehills Technical School and Charlemont Secondary Modern Girls School, and Dr. C. W. D. Cole, the Chest Physician, personally supervised the skin testing and vaccination techniques. It became obvious that it would be possible to omit the 1/10,000 mantoux test in the preliminary testing, and this procedure was followed with the children in other schools. This simplification of the original plan has avoided the giving of one further injection to each child and has made the administration of the scheme much easier. Very few untoward reactions to the vaccination have been reported.

The children at Cronehills Technical and Charlemont Secondary Modern Girls Schools, whose mantoux tests were strongly positive, were referred to the Chest Clinic for chest X-rays, and it was possible, later in the year, for all the children who were mantoux positive to be referred to the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit. As a result of these investigations, six children were found to be suffering from tuberculosis.

In all, the parents of 1,435 children were approached for inclusion in the scheme, and 1,085 (75.5%) accepted. The percentage of acceptances ranged from 88% in Cronehills Technical School to 62% in Hill Top Secondary Modern Boys School. The percentage of children mantoux positive — who had already come into contact with tuberculosis infection — ranged from 33.3% in the case of girls in Cronehills Technical School, to 12.1% in the Spon Lane Secondary Modern Girls School. It is likely, however, that the percentage positive in Cronehills Technical School is a more accurate indication of the overall picture because in Spon Lane Secondary Modern Girls School, less than two-thirds of the children eligible for inclusion in the scheme were tested. Towards the end of the year, consideration was given to the possibility of devising a record card which could be analysed by punched card machines in the Borough Treasurer's Department, and considerable assistance was given by the Borough Treasurer and members of his staff, and by the Records Officer of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board in devising a suitable card.

As arranged under this scheme, family doctors are notified of the date of B.C.G. vaccination and its result. I am glad to report that all children vaccinated and given a further mantoux test, which was read at the usual interval, were shown to have acquired protection from tuberculosis.

B.C.G. VACCINATION TABLE

	Cronenhills Technical School	Charlemont Secondary Modern School		Grammar School		Hill Top Secondary Modern School		George Salter Secondary Modern School		Spon Lane Secondary Modern School		Totals
		Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	
Nominal Roll	.. ..	325	232	60	61	96	100	94	123	104	113	1,435
Total of acceptances	.. ..	286	203	47	47	61	62	61	84	66	73	1,085
Total 1st and 2nd Mantoux...	..	274	189	42	44	55	57	53	83	66	73	1,025
Total positives	.. ..	70	51	6	8	8	13	11	18	8	21	233
Absentees	.. ..	12	14	5	3	6	5	8	1	3	6	69
Total given B.C.G.	.. ..	200	139	36	32	46	42	40	62	55	46	767
Mantoux conversion injections	..	197	131	37	30	46	39	38	58	52	43	736

The overall mantoux positive rate — boys 24.2% girls 20.3%



## Health Visitors — Social and Preventive Work

Tuberculosis health visitors visited all newly notified cases of tuberculosis and made contact with their families. A total of 741 contacts were examined during the year, a rather more satisfactory figure than in the previous year. Generally speaking, the case finding proved no more successful than in previous years. This is borne out by the fact that there were seven posthumous notifications and a further five men died within three weeks of diagnosis.

It might be thought that in a comparatively small community served by two General Hospitals, a Chest Clinic, and frequent surveys by the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, very few cases of advanced tuberculosis could escape the diagnostic net. However, advanced cases are constantly coming to light. The problem in its simplest form is of getting these people to their doctors earlier. In my opinion there remains some of the old fear of "T.B." in the minds of the older generation, and there is no doubt that a certain stigma is still attached to this disease in the minds of the less well informed section of the community. Furthermore, there is very often strong opposition by the patient to being admitted to a sanatorium.

It seems to me that it must be made very clear to the general public, and in particular to the mothers of teenage girls and the wives of middle-aged men (the age groups which provide the greatest number of cases) that a cough and a disinclination to do anything much in the evening may well be signs of serious trouble in the chest, and that if these symptoms persist for more than two weeks or so, the family doctor should be consulted. There are ample facilities in this town for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, and these are freely used by general practitioners. It cannot be too strongly stressed that pulmonary tuberculosis in its acute form can be comparatively easily treated and cured nowadays, and, even in its chronic form, the disease will respond dramatically to adequate treatment.

### MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY

West Bromwich had a very generous allocation of the services of the Mass Radiography Unit during 1955. Very successful general sessions were held at the Town Hall in April and August, and arrangements were made with large individual firms, including one large bakery, for surveys to be carried out at their works.

The first of the district surveys in the Friar Park Area and of the visits of a Unit to Heath Lane Hospital at fortnightly intervals, took place in December 1955. I give below confirmed figures so far received for these surveys :—

		Total Strength	Number X-rayed				Recalled for large plates	% recalled	Active tubercle	Other conditions
			Male	Female	Total	%				
1	TOWN HALL, WEST BROMWICH General public	—	3,492	2,935	6,427	—	297	5·0	17	47
	Large industrial concerns ..	1,400	772	330	1,102	—	59	5·5	4	14
	Miscellaneous firms .. ..	209	148	61	209	—	14	7·0	—	1
2	G.P. REFERRAL SESSIONS Doctors' cases and miscellaneous	—	24	29	53	—	8	15·0	1	4
3	FRIAR PARK DISTRICT SURVEY General public	—	126	253	379	—	14	4·0	—	2
	School children and teachers..	—	52	21	73	—	1	2·0	—	—

## PNEUMOCONIOSIS IN LOCAL INDUSTRY

Recent developments in the Council's efforts to obtain a detailed investigation of this problem were outlined in the annual report for 1954. During 1955, approaches were made to the Medical Research Council.

The view was expressed that the Medical Research Council would be unlikely to wish to carry out a routine survey of foundry workers in West Bromwich merely to ascertain the incidence of pneumoconiosis there, since such a survey would be unlikely to advance fundamental knowledge. The subject has been discussed at the Council's Industrial Pulmonary Diseases Committee, and it is understood that the possibility of investigating bronchitis in foundry workers has been discussed at a recent meeting of the Industrial Health Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. However, the two pilot industrial health surveys planned as a result of the Committee's recommendations, have been firstly of factories in the County Borough of Halifax and secondly of the pottery industry. It is understood that the second survey will cover some 200 factories and last approximately nine months. The Health Committee has expressed disappointment that the pioneer work on the health of foundry workers which has been carried out in this area and has brought to light approximately 200 cases of pneumoconiosis has not resulted in an investigation locally.



The Secretary of the Industrial Health Advisory Committee has stated that any plans for further surveys will depend to some extent on the results of the two pilot studies and the experience gained during them, but that it will be some time before these factors can be assessed.

It is believed that the Committee is interested in the problem of chronic bronchitis in foundry workers, amongst other topics, and that the next meeting of the Committee will be held in October, 1956.

## NURSING HOMES

The following Nursing Homes were on the register at 31st December 1955 :—

	<i>Registered Number of beds</i>
Park House Nursing Home, 59 Beeches Road .. .. .	18 (increased from 15 in March, 1955)
Sandwell Nursing Home, 9 Birming- ham Road .. .. .	14 (increased from 12 in June, 1955)

The third Home, the Lodge Nursing Home, registered for eight patients, closed on 30th November, 1955.

Regular inspections were made by members of the staff of the Health Department of these premises.

## CONVALESCENCE

The demands on this valuable service continue, and recuperative holidays were arranged for 98 adults and 5 children during 1955. Most of the patients were accommodated in convalescent homes by the sea.

In addition to convalescent home fees, travelling expenses were paid in respect of 89 patients.

### Recommendations :

(a) General practitioners .. .. .	96
(b) Hospital patients :—	
(i) Almoners .. .. .	5
(ii) Psychiatric Social Worker .. .. .	1
(iii) Mental Health Officer .. .. .	1
Total .. .. .	<hr/> 103 <hr/>

### Age group of patients :

Under 21 years	..	..	..	..	..	9
21—44 years	..	..	..	..	..	25
45—64 „	..	..	..	..	..	55
Over 65 „	..	..	..	..	..	14
Total						103

### Details of accommodation :

<i>Convalescent Homes</i>				<i>Children under 16 years</i>		
			<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>		
“ Rest Haven,” Exmouth	..	..	29	15	—	—
“ Victoria,” Clevedon	..	..	13	—	—	—
“ Belmont,” Clevedon	..	..	—	9	—	—
“ West Hill,” Southport	..	..	8	4	—	—
“ The Bell Memorial Home,” Lancing			—	9	—	—
The Llandudno Convalescent Home for Women	..	..	—	8	—	—
“ The Gables,” Droitwich	..	..	—	1	—	—
Rustington Convalescent Home for Men, Littlehampton	..	..	1	—	—	—
“ Westwood,” Blackpool	..	..	1	—	—	—
Sunbeam Home, Lancing	..	..	—	—	—	3
Orchard Dene, Nr. Liverpool	..	..	—	—	—	1
“ The House Beautiful,” Bournemouth	..	..	—	—	—	1
			52	46	—	5

### Types of illness :

Post operative	..	..	..	..	..	27
Respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	26
Cardio-vascular	..	..	..	..	..	11
Gastro-intestinal	..	..	..	..	..	8
Nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	23
Others	..	..	..	..	..	8

## MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The undermentioned medical examinations were carried out during the year by the medical staff :—

### (1) Children in care

Medical examinations of children in care in local authority homes are carried out at the intervals prescribed by the Home Office, *i.e.*,

On admission.

Monthly for children under 1 year.

Quarterly for children aged 1 year and over.

On discharge.

Stool specimens are sent for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham, in respect of all children admitted to the Reception Centre and Nursery.



## **(2) Corporation Staff**

### **(a) Superannuation medical examinations**

Number of examinations	..	..	..	114
Accepted	..	..	..	109
Deferred for re-examination	..	..	..	3
Accepted after re-examination	..	..	..	2

### **(b) Medical examinations for admission to the Corporation's Sickness Scheme :**

Number of examinations	..	..	..	192
Accepted	..	..	..	182
Deferred for re-examination	..	..	..	4
Accepted after re-examination	..	..	..	6

### **(c) Ministry of Education medical examinations.. 43**

### **(d) Medical examinations for pension .. .. 3**

### **(e) Special medicals .. .. . 2**

Since the beginning of 1956 it has been possible to arrange for new employees of the Corporation to have chest X-rays at the Mass Radiography Unit which is located at Heath Lane Hospital on one day in every fortnight.

## DENTAL SERVICE

(For mothers and pre-school children)

Report by D. Halley Goose, B.Sc., L.D.S.

More expectant and nursing mothers and children under five were treated this year than in 1954, and this is partially due to the institution of an evening dental surgery for mothers.

It was realised that one reason for the poor attendances in the past was that mothers find it difficult to take time off during school hours to come for their own treatment. In the evening it would be possible for their husbands to look after the children, and so it was agreed to hold an evening surgery of three hours' duration once a week at the Central Clinic primarily for these patients.

This was commenced on the 6th October by Mr. Ruddie, one of the part-time dental officers, assisted by Miss Adams the senior dental attendant. At the end of the year, not enough mothers were being referred to take up all the appointments, and so certain senior school children have also been seen on these days. However, the scheme promises to be successful.

The number of dentures supplied this year is still small, and the arrangement for their being made by a private dental laboratory in West Bromwich has been working satisfactorily.

Two tables are appended giving details of dental work carried out in 1955.

**TABLE A** Numbers provided with dental care

	<i>Examined</i>	<i>Needing treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made Dentally fit</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers .. ..	75	74	78	63
Children under five ..	438	425	438	430

**TABLE B** Forms of dental treatment provided

	<i>Extractions</i>	<i>Anaesthetics</i>		<i>Fillings</i>	<i>Scalings or scaling and gum treatment</i>	<i>Silver Nitrate treatment</i>	<i>Dressings</i>	<i>Radiographs</i>	<i>Dentures provided</i>	
		<i>Local</i>	<i>Gen.</i>						<i>Complete</i>	<i>Partial</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ..	304	7	76	19	7	25	23	2	8	8
Children under five ..	1,233	1	452	23	—	59	32	—	—	—







## PROBLEM FAMILIES





## PROBLEM FAMILIES

Regular meetings were held during the year of the Co-ordinating Committee of officers which had been set up in December, 1953. By the end of 1955, 75 families had been considered and, at one time or another, 52 of them had fallen into the problem family category. Twenty-three families were under observation or being assisted then, and fourteen of them were in an unstable state. It has been suggested that certain areas of the town may have a magnetic attraction for this type of family, and it is interesting to note that 18 of the total of problem families, six of them being in an acutely unstable state, live on one housing estate. An attempt was made to classify the hard-core of this group of unsatisfactory tenants, and in doing so a description of a rather extreme type of case, contained in a paper by Dr. R. C. Wofinden, Medical Officer of Health of the City of Bristol, was found very helpful.

“ Often it is a large family, some of the children being dull or feeble-minded. From their appearance they are strangers to soap and water, toothbrush and comb ; the clothing is dirty and torn and the footgear absent or totally inadequate. Often they are verminous and have scabies and impetigo. Their nutrition is surprisingly average — doubtless due to extra-familial feeding in schools. The mother is frequently substandard mentally. The home, if indeed it can be described as such, has usually the most striking characteristics. Nauseating odours assail one’s nostrils on entry, and the source is usually located in some urine sodden, faecal stained mattress in an upstairs room. There are no floor coverings, no decorations on the walls except perhaps the scribbles of the children and bizarre patterns formed by absent plaster. Furniture is of the most primitive, cooking utensils absent, facilities for sleeping hopeless — iron bedsteads furnished with soiled mattresses and no coverings. . . . The bathroom is obviously the least frequented room of the building. . . . The children, especially the older ones, often seem perfectly happy and contented, despite such a shocking environment.”

It was found that, in all, 17 families in the borough came within this category. In them it appeared that because of some physical, mental, moral or behaviour difficulty they were incapable of taking their place as ordinary members of society, and in this respect it appeared that they were different from other families. There were 99 surviving children in these families, and ten were reported to have died — nine in infancy. The causes of death were as follows :—

Gastro-enteritis	..	..	..	..	6
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	2
Status epilepticus	..	..	..	..	1
Road accident	..	..	..	..	1

A review was made by Dr. M. Hommers of the children of school age in whom group or individual intelligence tests had been performed. In these 22 children the results were as follows :—

<i>Intelligence Quotient</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Normal Population</i>	<i>Problem Family Children</i>
Below 50	Imbecile and idiot .. ..	0·2	4·5
51—69	Feeble-minded .. ..	2	27·3
70—84	Dull and backward .. ..	10	31·8
85—114	Normal .. ..	76	36·4
115—129	Superior .. ..	10	—
130— and over	Very superior .. ..	2	—

It will be seen that in this selected group in which the average intelligence quotient was 77, there was no child of superior intelligence and an excessive number in the feeble-minded and dull and backward groups. Eight children had been ascertained as educationally subnormal, and two were certified as mental defectives.

At the December meeting of the Health Committee an account was given of the work undertaken since March 1955 by a selected home help in dealing with a family consisting of mother, father and nine children with ages ranging from 14 years to eight months. The parents at first were not co-operative and the standard of child care extremely low. The mother had been before the Court on a charge of ill-treating a girl aged 1 year 9 months and was under the supervision of the local inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. As a result of patient educative work, the standards in the home were raised, and the mother was being helped through another pregnancy. Rent was paid regularly and help was given in budgeting and in settling debts to tradespeople.

At first the conditions at home deteriorated rapidly if help was temporarily withdrawn, but later it became obvious that the mother had materially benefited from the instruction and was now capable of holding her own for a period of some weeks.

At a special meeting of the Housing Committee held on the 3rd January 1956, at which representatives of the Children's, Education, Health and Welfare Services Committees were present, the whole question of problem families was considered, and the Committees agreed that :—

- (1) Certain families should be designated as hard-core problem families for special treatment.
- (2) That the Health Committee be asked to extend the experimental service which they had already commenced, with a view to accepting responsibility for the welfare of these families.
- (3) That any action which might have the effect of breaking up these families should normally only be considered as a last resort.



- (4) That pending any statutory provision requiring the integration of the various social services the Health and Children's Committees be asked to consider whether any further steps can be taken to extend the scope of preventive work undertaken by the Health and Children's Departments aimed at preserving existing family units.

As a result of this recommendation, the Health Committee decided in April 1956 to extend the work undertaken by the selected home help, who is paid an extra 3d. per hour in view of the demands put on her by this work, and to reduce the hours spent weekly with the family originally assisted. The Council has agreed to the appointment of another Child Care Officer dealing mainly with preventive work.

In February 1956, the Health Committee received details of a Home which has been established in Birmingham by Middlemore Emigration Homes, for the residential training of mothers and children from problem families in cases where it is considered that a period of residence under the care of trained staff would be beneficial. In May 1956, the Council agreed that the approval of the Ministry of Health should be sought to an amendment to the scheme under the National Health Service Act, 1946, so that under Section 28 of the Act arrangements could be made, in suitable cases, "for the provision of rehabilitation training, including residential training," in an effort to prevent the break-up of families.

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

## Live Births

There were 1,434 live births notified, representing a birth rate of 16 per 1,000. The number of births was 78 lower than in 1954, when the rate was 17.1 per 1,000

There were 48 illegitimate births, three fewer than in 1954.

## Still-Births

There were 41 still-births, representing a rate of 27.8 per 1,000 live and still-births.

Year	Birth Rates		Still-Birth Rates	
	West Bromwich	England and Wales	West Bromwich	England and Wales
1947	20.9	20.5	29.8	24.0
1948	19.6	17.9	22.6	23.0
1949	19.5	16.7	25.4	22.7
1950	17.8	15.8	24.9	22.9
1951	17.5	15.5	24.3	22.7
1952	17.2	15.3	32.2	26.6
1953	17.0	15.5	30.0	22.4
1954	17.1	15.2	20.7	23.5
1955	16.0	15.0	27.8	23.1

## Premature Births

Of the total live births 99 or 6.9% were premature, a decrease in incidence, the figure for 1954 being 8.7%. There were 28 babies born prematurely at home, where 27 were nursed entirely ; premature births in hospital numbered 70, and one in a private nursing home.

## Infant Mortality

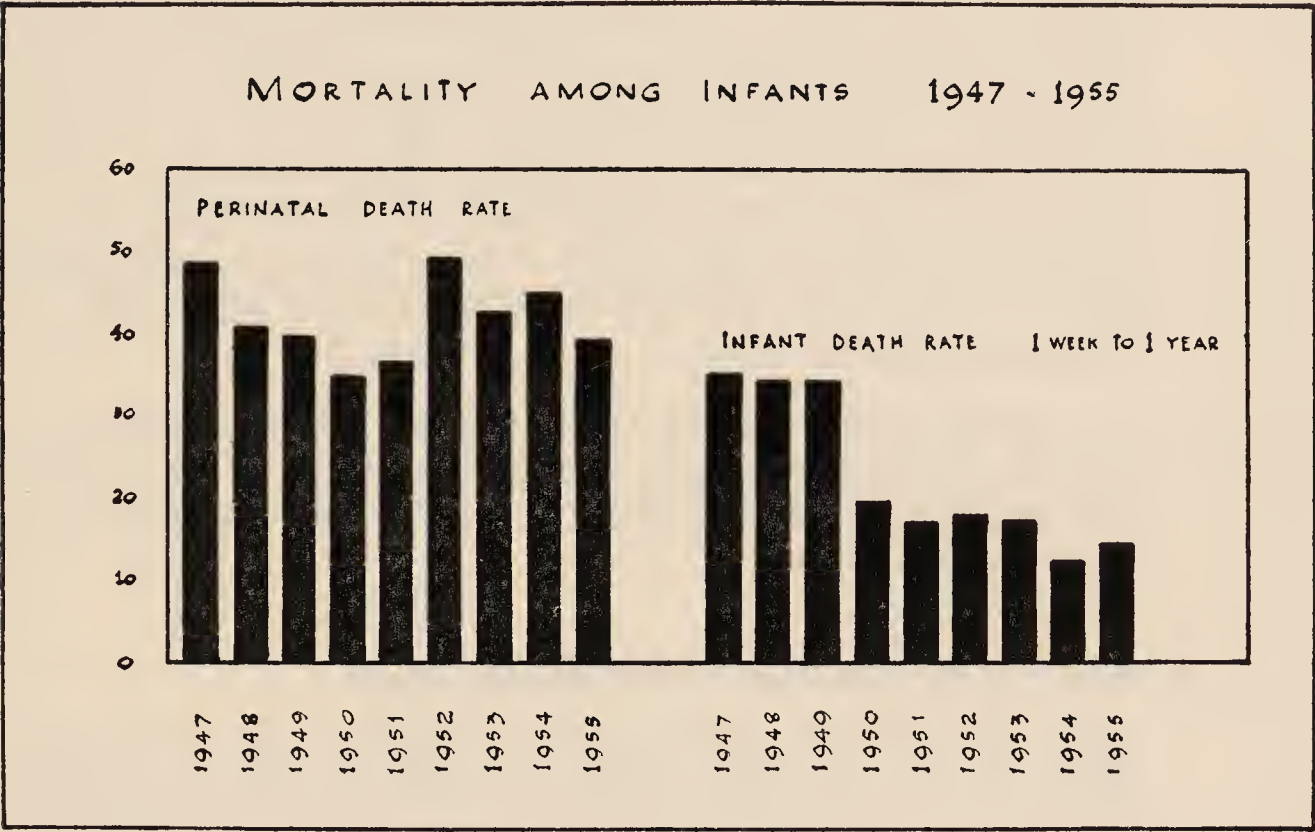
Deaths of infants under the age of one year numbered 38, representing an infant death rate of 26.5 per 1,000 live births.

INFANT MORTALITY		
Year	West Bromwich	England & Wales
1947	54.6	41.0
1948	53.0	34.0
1949	49.0	32.0
1950	30.0	29.8
1951	29.5	29.6
1952	35.9	27.6
1953	30.1	26.8
1954	37.0	25.4
1955	26.5	24.9

Prematurity was the commonest cause of death in infancy, accounting for 36.8% of all deaths.



The following table illustrates the fact that although the causes of death between one week and one year — mainly infectious diseases — have declined, the total of still-births and deaths in the first week of life has remained fairly constant in the past six years.



**MATERNITY**  
(including domiciliary midwifery)

**I. Midwives practising in the area**

Number of midwives practising at the end of the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority :—

(a)	Municipal midwives	.. .. .	10
(b)	Midwives employed by voluntary organisations :		
	(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	.. .. .	nil
	(ii) Otherwise (including hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act, 1946)	.. .. .	nil
(c)	Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act :		
	(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	.. .. .	nil
	(ii) Otherwise	.. .. .	10
(d)	Midwives in private practice (including midwives employed in nursing homes)	.. .. .	2
			—
			22
			—

## **II. The Domiciliary Midwifery Service**

### **(1) General Arrangements**

All the domiciliary midwifery is carried out by the ten midwives employed by the Council and two midwives in private practice. The Chief Nursing Officer carries out the immediate supervision and arranging of the work of the Health Department midwives. The medical supervisor of midwives is the obstetrician in charge of the hospital obstetric service. Each midwife works in an area demarcated on the map of the borough, but a certain amount of flexibility is necessary to cover gaps due to illness, periods off duty, or absence of a midwife from some other cause.

Provision has been made in the 1956-57 estimates for the employment of a further midwife to cope with the increasing number of births in the Great Barr and Yew Tree areas.

### **(2) Ante-natal care for midwifery cases**

Most mothers attend a clinic for routine care. In these cases they invariably book with the general practitioner under the maternity medical service, seeing him early in pregnancy and again at the 36th week with a full report from the clinic. Wasserman, Kahn and rhesus testing are carried out in every case attending local authority clinics. The remainder of the ante-natal care is carried out by general practitioners at their own surgeries, supplemented by periodic examinations by the midwife in the mother's home.

### **(3) Administration of Pethidine**

Pethidine was given to 296 of the cases (41.9%) in which the midwife was acting on her own responsibility.

### **(4) Gas and air analgesia**

It is the policy of the domiciliary midwifery service to ensure 100% availability of gas and air analgesia in domiciliary practice and to see that every mother is instructed in the use of the apparatus during pregnancy.

Gas and air was administered to 429 women in labour in 1955.

- (5)** During the year ten still-births occurred at home. In two cases the foetus had congenital abnormalities, and in three cases the mother suffered from toxæmia of pregnancy. In five cases the cause of foetal death was unknown.



## (6) Emergency obstetric service

This service is readily available and operates from Hallam Hospital. It was called out on 11 occasions during 1955 and every mother made a good recovery.

Details of the cases were as follows :—

Retained placenta	..	..	4
Ante-partum haemorrhage	..		2
Post-partum haemorrhage	..		4
Obstetric shock..	..	..	1

## (7) Notifications by midwives to the local supervising authority

Medical aid was called in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board on 199 occasions during the year. The reasons given were as follows :—

### (a) MOTHER

Ante-partum haemorrhage	..		13
Delay in first stage	..	..	2
Delay in second stage	..	..	9
Foetal heart not heard	..		1
Giddiness and vomiting	..		2
Inflamed vein	..	..	3
Malpresentation	..	..	4
Post-partum haemorrhage	..		4
Premature labour	..	..	4
Prolapsed cord	..	..	1
Pyrexia	..	..	7
Retained placenta	..	..	10
Ruptured perineum	..	..	62
Miscarriage	..	..	1
Thrombosis	..	..	2
Obstructed labour	..	..	3
Inflamed breast	..	..	4
Obstetric shock..	..	..	1
Phlebitis	..	..	1
Breech presentation	..	..	2
Bronchitis	..	..	1
Placenta praevia	..	..	1
Uterine inertia	..	..	3
Poor general condition	..		7
Offensive lochia	..	..	1
High blood pressure	..	..	5
Others	..	..	2

—  
156

(b) BABY

Asphyxia pallida .. ..	4
Cold .. ..	3
Congenital heart .. ..	2
Convulsions .. ..	1
Discharging eyes .. ..	9
Haemorrhage .. ..	2
Illness undiagnosed .. ..	4
Malformation .. ..	3
Septic spots or rash .. ..	3
Prematurity .. ..	5
Septic finger .. ..	1
White mouth .. ..	2
Mastitis .. ..	2
Icterus neonatorum .. ..	2
	— 43
	199

(8) Post-natal care of domiciliary cases

Every effort is made to persuade mothers to go to the doctor providing medical services for a post-natal examination.

(9) Training in domiciliary midwifery

In conjunction with Sutton Coldfield Maternity Hospital pupil midwives are trained in West Bromwich for Part II of the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

(10) Post-certificate education of midwives

The domiciliary midwives take turns in attending post-certificate courses organised by the Royal College of Midwives for midwives engaged in teaching. One midwife attended a course held in Brighton in 1955.

III. Places of Confinement

Most babies were born in the Maternity Department, Hallam Hospital, and the trend of places of confinement can be seen from the following table :—

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Hospital deliveries ..	662 (38·6%)	689	761	735	811	822	857 (55·3%)	752 (50·9%)
Private Nursing Home deliveries .. ..	119 (6·9%)	91	15	20	9	11	14 (0·9%)	15 (1·0%)
Domiciliary deliveries	933 (54·5%)	925	835	826	728	690	680 (43·8%)	710 (48·1%)



#### IV. Notifiable infectious diseases associated with child-birth

(1)	Ophthalmia neonatorum	..	..	2
(2)	Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	9
(3)	Pemphigus neonatorum	..	..	nil

#### V. Maternal mortality

No death occurred during the year.

#### VI. Ante-natal clinics

Ante-natal clinics are held at the six local authority clinics mentioned in the report for 1954, at Friar Park Clinic which opened in February 1955, and at Hallam Hospital Maternity Department.

The local health authority's staff do not attend at the hospital ante-natal clinics, but at those held in welfare centres a health visitor and one or two midwives are customarily present.

Maternity outfits are kept centrally at the Health Department and are supplied to expectant mothers at the seventh month, on presentation of a chit supplied by the midwife booked to attend them.

Mothercraft training is carried out regularly at ante-natal clinics and infant welfare centres. Health talks are given by health visitors to small groups and demonstrations are arranged in connection with the making of infants' clothes and the preparation of feeds. Health topics are illustrated by blackboard and poster displays, changed weekly.

Unmarried mothers are dealt with at ordinary ante-natal sessions, though generally they attend the hospital clinic since owing to primiparity or unsatisfactory home conditions a domiciliary confinement is considered undesirable. The health visitor or sister in charge of the clinic puts the mother in touch with the Moral Welfare Worker.

#### ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS, 1955

The number of first attendances at local authority clinics increased from 522 in 1954 to 632 in 1955, and the total of attendances from 2,724 to 3,690. Attendances at clinics are summarised in the following table :—

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>First Attendances</i>	<i>Re- Attendances</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Boulton Road ..	94	403	497
Highfields .. ..	116	592	708
Hill Top .. ..	160	755	915
Stone Cross .. ..	97	522	619
Hamstead .. ..	37	166	203
Greets Green .. ..	58	325	383
Friar Park .. ..	70	295	365

VII West Bromwich Family Planning Association

The Family Planning Association of West Bromwich completed its first full year of work in 1955. The clinic session is held weekly at the Highfields Welfare Centre, Bratt Street, by permission of the Council, on Wednesdays from 7-0 p.m. to 9-0 p.m.

The following is a summary of work during the year :—

Number of clinics held during the year .. ..	45
Number of new patients seen during the year ..	331
Average number per clinic .. .. .	7
Number of patients referred regarding sub-fertility .. .. .	10

Of the total number of patients who attended in 1955, 126 had babies aged less than twelve months.

The sources and reasons for referral of cases can be summarised as follows :—

SOURCE	REASON
Referred by medical practitioners .. .. . 41	Financial .. .. 44
	Ill health .. .. 57
Referred by :	Housing conditions .. 44
Health Visitors .. .. 25	Spacing of children .. 83
Midwives .. .. 19	Limitation of family .. 103
Personal introduction .. 95	
Transfers .. .. . 107	
Attendance because of press publicity .. .. . 40	
Referred by Marriage Guidance Council .. .. 4	



# CHILD WELFARE

## I. Premature Babies

During 1955 there were 99 live births of babies weighing 5½ lbs. and under, and 19 still-births. The following table shows their weights, place of birth and survival:—

Weight at Birth	Premature live births														Premature still-births				
	Born in hospital				Born and Nursed entirely at home				Born at home and trans- ferred to hospital on or before 28th day				Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there				Born in hospital	Born at home	Born in nursing home
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Sur- vival %	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Sur- vival %	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Sur- vival %	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Sur- vival %			
3 lbs. 4 ozs. or less ..	10	4	4	40.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	—
3 lbs. 5 ozs. to 4 lbs. 6 ozs. ..	12	1	11	91.7	6	—	6	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
4 lbs. 7 ozs. to 4 lbs. 15 ozs.	13	—	11	84.6	6	—	6	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
5 lbs. to 5 lbs. 8 ozs. ..	35	—	35	100	15	—	15	100	1	—	1	100	1	100	1	100	2	—	—

The prematurity rate in West Bromwich in 1954 (8.7%) was higher than the national average (6.9%), but fell to 6.9% in 1955.

Prematurity in West Bromwich in 1954-55

An infant with a birth weight of 2,500 grams (5½ lbs.) or less, is considered premature regardless of length of gestation. Since 1952 the birth weight of every child has been required on notification of birth, and an up-to-date picture of prematurity in England and Wales, compiled in statistics returned to the Ministry of Health, is presented in the Annual Reports of the Chief Medical Officer. The overall position in 1954 will be seen from the table below :—

TABLE I  
Liveborn Premature Babies in England and Wales 1954

	<i>Institutional (hospital and nursing homes)</i>	<i>Domiciliary</i>	<i>Total</i>
Liveborn . . . .	33,886	12,156	46,042
Adjustment for transfer from home to institution	2,739	— 2,739	
	36,625	9,417	46,042

It will be seen that 6·9% of all babies born were premature infants, and that just over one-fifth of all premature children are looked after entirely at home. In addition, there were 8,150 premature still-births in England and Wales, making a total of 54,192 premature births.

In West Bromwich the percentage of premature infants born in 1954 and 1955 were 8·7 and 6·9 respectively. In West Bromwich there were during these years a total of 233 liveborn and 34 stillborn premature infants. 30% of the babies were born at home, and in the case of only two infants was it necessary for their transfer to hospital on or before the 28th day of life. The fate of premature children is of considerable importance because more than 30% of infant deaths and nearly half the still-births are in premature infants. It is interesting to compare the premature children in England and Wales as a whole with those in West Bromwich in 1954.

TABLE II  
Fate of Premature Children — England and Wales per 1,000 live births in each Weight Group (1954)

<i>Weight Distribu- tion</i>	<i>Weight at Birth</i>	<i>Born in Hospital</i>	<i>Born at home and nursed there</i>	<i>Mortality per 1,000 live births</i>	<i>Expected Survival</i>
11%	3 lbs. 4 ozs.	679	766	685	31%
18%	4 lbs. 6 ozs.	194	155	199	80%
20%	4 lbs. 15 ozs.	76	68	81	92%
51%	5 lbs. 8 ozs.	43	27	44	96%



TABLE III

Fate of Premature Children — West Bromwich per 1,000 live births in each Weight Group (1954).

<i>Weight Distribution</i>	<i>Weight at birth</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Mortality per 1,000 live births</i>	<i>Survival</i>
13%	3 lbs. 4 ozs.	17	11	647	35%
17%	4 lbs. 6 ozs.	22	3	136	86%
21%	4 lbs. 15 ozs.	28	4	143	86%
49%	5 lbs. 8 ozs.	64	3	47	95%

It will be seen that the weight distribution of the infants and their expectation of survival followed closely the national pattern in that year. The position can be seen even more clearly if we compare the mortality rate per 100 live and stillborn prematures in England and Wales as a whole in 1954 with that in West Bromwich in 1954-5.

TABLE IV

Foetal Loss of Premature Children — England and Wales 1954 ; West Bromwich — 1954 and 1955.

	<i>Live-born prems.</i>	<i>Still-births</i>	<i>Total prems.</i>	<i>Neo-natal deaths</i>	<i>Foetal loss</i>	<i>Mortality per 100 live and still-born prems.</i>
England and Wales 1954 .. ..	46,042	8,150	54,192	6,996	15,146	27.9
West Bromwich 1954 .. ..	131	15	146	21	36	24.7
West Bromwich 1955 .. ..	99	19	118	9	28	23.7

It will be seen that in 1955 the rate of mortality among premature babies was reduced. Since September 1952, a Premature Baby Unit has existed at Hallam Hospital, and I mentioned in my Annual Report for 1954 that I hoped that the experience of its staff could be passed on to all the members of the nursing staff in the Health Department. It has been possible to arrange, during the year, teaching sessions undertaken by Dr. Everley Jones, at which Health Department staff were present.

## II. Child Welfare Clinics

### (a) STAFF

Each clinic should be staffed by a medical officer, two health visitors, and one or more voluntary workers.

(b) ATTENDANCES AT CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Number of children who attended and were born in :</i>		<i>Total number of children who attended during the year</i>	<i>Number of attendances made by children who at their first attendance were</i>		<i>Total attendances</i>	<i>Number of sessions</i>	
	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>		<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 but under 5 years</i>		<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Per year</i>
Boulton Road	150	160	380	160	238	3,323	2	99
Highfields ..	378	240	550	240	310	4,678	2	99
Hill Top ..	197	185	474	185	301	3,484	2	99
Stone Cross ..	237	237	535	237	321	3,769	2	99
Hamstead ..	122	110	273	110	176	2,125	1	51
Greets Green ..	123	113	301	113	212	1,974	1	51
Friar Park ..	126	125	253	125	140	2,881	1	51

(c) FOODS AND MEDICANTS

There is a central distribution centre (open during office hours) in the Health Department, and welfare foods are available there and at all child welfare clinics in the Borough. This has placed on the clerical staff a substantial burden, which will undoubtedly increase when the new clinics on the Yew Tree Estate and in the Great Barr area are opened.

### III. General Developments

The new infant welfare centre at Friar Park was opened by the Right Hon. John Dugdale, M.P. on 19th January, 1955. Since then its value has been proved for child welfare, ante-natal and minor ailment clinics.

During the year consideration was given to the provision of clinic facilities on the Yew Tree Estate and in the Great Barr area. With the help of the Housing Committee it has been possible to convert four garages into use as a temporary welfare clinic on the Yew Tree Estate, and through the happy co-operation of the Baths and Estates, Civic Catering, and Health Committees, the ground floor of the Red House, Red House Park, has been almost completely redecorated and two of the rooms have been converted for use as a clinic. It is hoped that the Red House Park clinic will open towards the end of May 1956, and the Yew Tree Clinic in August, 1956.

### IV. Illegitimate Children

On the 1st January 1955 one expectant mother was resident in a Home and a further eight cases were admitted during the year.



Twenty-six new cases of expectant mothers and three of mothers and babies were seen. Seven expectant mothers for whom admission to Homes was arranged refused vacancies offered to them, the arrangements made by three of them being known to be satisfactory. There were three cases of second pregnancies. One expectant mother married the putative father before the birth of her baby and did not then require admission to a Home. Two mothers married the putative fathers after the birth of the babies and were keeping their babies.

Two mothers, one a Jamaican, have married men other than the fathers of their children, and they appear to be quite happy.

Six babies were placed by the Association with suitable adopters registered on our list of prospective adopters, away from the area of West Bromwich. They are all doing very well and the adopters all appear to be very happy. Two mothers placed their babies privately. Three adoptions have been legalised of babies from other areas and placed with adopters registered with the Association, living in West Bromwich.

Two expectant mothers found suitable resident posts, while waiting for the time when they would be admitted to Homes. Both gave excellent service to their employers, and the girls themselves were very happy. Four expectant mothers wishing to leave the area were referred for further help to the Worker of the area to which they went.

There were two Court cases concerning affiliation orders, and in two cases arrangements were made privately for financial assistance from the putative fathers.

A number of enquiries of various kinds were dealt with and help or advice given.

## **V. Ultra Violet Light Clinic**

Ultra violet light clinics are held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at Stone Cross Clinic and the Central School Clinic. During the year 162 children, making 2,873 attendances, received artificial sunlight treatment.

## HEALTH VISITING

### 1. Staff

The health visiting staff consists of the Chief Nursing Officer and ten health visitors/school nurses. These ladies are employed full-time by the Corporation but not continuously as health visitors because they give a proportion of their time, approximately 4/11ths, to the school health service.

### 2. Home visits paid by health visitors during the year

The area of the County Borough is divided into eleven districts, one health visitor being in charge of each district and working under the general supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer. In these districts they carry out the visiting of infants and young children up to the age of five. In addition, they visit cases of infectious disease and patients with other illnesses, particularly the aged or infirm or those suffering from chronic diseases.

There is close liaison with the hospitals for the follow-up of children or elderly persons who have been discharged. In addition, an arrangement exists with the medical staff of Hallam Hospital whereby cases for whom application is made for admission to the chronic wards are visited by the health visitors in their homes and an assessment made of the urgency for their admission.

There is a scheme for training health visitors in Birmingham, and student health visitors are regularly assisted to follow this course. Observation visits for students undertaking this course are arranged in West Bromwich. A student who is enrolled attends a nine months' course of instruction conducted jointly by the Public Health Department and the University of Birmingham. After passing the examination for the Health Visitor's Certificate, the health visitor commences her duties with the local health authority sponsoring her training and contracts to continue in its service for twelve months. One student health visitor who enrolled in the course which began in September 1954, commenced duties in West Bromwich in May, 1955.

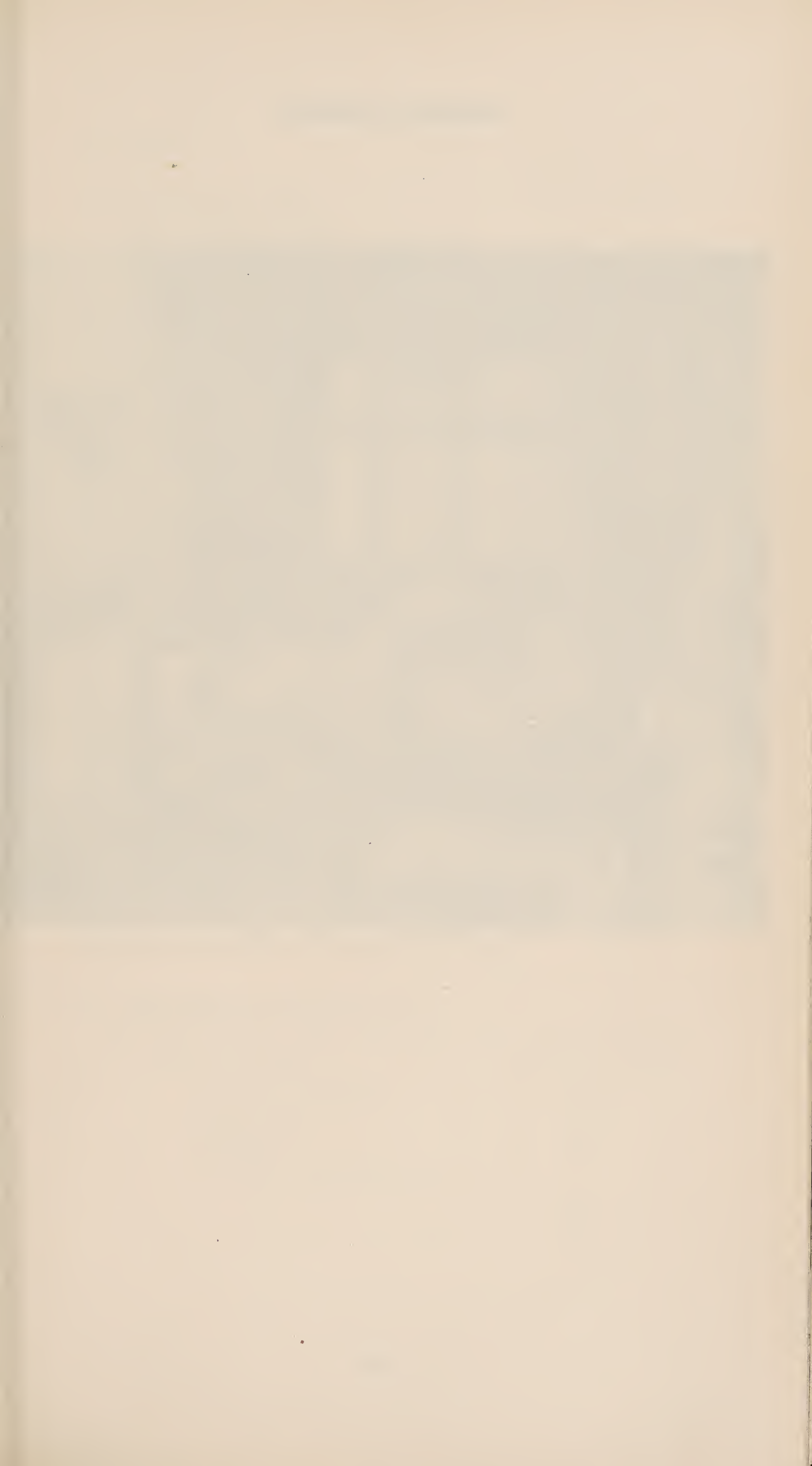
HEALTH VISITORS' INSPECTIONS :	1953	1954	1955
First visits to births.. ..	1,472	1,467	1,390
Re-visits to children under twelve months .. ..	6,817	5,607	5,006
Re-visits to children aged 1-5 years .. ..	12,933	13,170	12,026
Visits to cases of infectious disease .. ..	303	191	229
Visits to expectant mothers..	265	357	257
Miscellaneous .. ..	1,483	2,015	1,833
B.C.G. .. ..	264	1,326	878
	<u>23,537</u>	<u>24,133</u>	<u>21,619</u>

Total number of visits to children under five years 18,422

### 3. Work at child welfare clinics

A health visitor was present at all the 533 sessions of the child welfare clinics held during the year.







## HOME NURSING





# HOME NURSING

## 1. Staff

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Chief Nursing Officer .. .. .	—	1
State Registered Nurses — Full-time ..	2	3
State Registered Nurses — Part-time ..	—	3
State Enrolled Assistant Nurse — Part-time .. .. .	—	1

## 2. General arrangements

The district nurses work under the supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer, to whom application is made for their services and who allocates and organises their duties. Five full-time and four part-time nurses are available for this work. It is difficult to assess the number of hours necessary to cover all cases adequately. By employing some part-time personnel it is possible to increase the amount of nursing time available during a period of heavy demand for their services, but as the nurses usually have domestic ties the part-time nurses are unable to work longer hours for prolonged periods. This service has expanded considerably since 1951, and during the year the transport facilities have been improved.

There is good co-operation with the general practitioners of the area, and relations with members of the staff of local hospitals are excellent. Arrangements are made for the continuation of treatment after a patient's discharge, and, in the case of tuberculous patients, for treatment to begin before the patient is admitted to hospital. In cases of chronic illness, where circumstances deteriorate to a point at which domiciliary treatment is no longer adequate to cover the patient's needs, the hospital will generally accept the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health regarding the urgency of the case for admission.

Night calls are covered by a rota of nurses so that one is available every night. Calls are transmitted by the Ambulance Department through which transport is arranged.

## 3. Cases nursed during the year

(a) The following table shows the source of new patients during the year :—

General practitioners .. .. .	714
Chest Clinic .. .. .	59
Hospitals .. .. .	58
Transfers from another area ..	9
	<hr/> 840 <hr/>

(b)		1954	1955
	Total number of patients nursed	807	1,003
	Total number of visits paid ..	30,352	32,353

16,297 visits were paid to patients over 65 years of age compared with 30 to patients aged less than five years.

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF WORK :

Patients treated for medical conditions were the persons mainly catered for during the year (875 patients, 28,582 visits).

It is interesting to report that 176 patients received injections during the year, and that 93 patients suffering from tuberculosis received general nursing attention and treatment. Thirty-two patients received treatment for surgical conditions, and three patients were treated for complications of pregnancy.

#### 4. Loan of Nursing Equipment

The following articles were loaned during the year :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>No.</i>
Air rings .. ..	227	Mattresses .. ..	5
Back rests .. ..	175	Bed table .. ..	1
Beds — hospital type	8	Head mirror .. ..	1
Bedpans — crock ..	306	Spinal carriage ..	1
rubber ..	28	Spitum cups .. ..	3
Cages .. .. ..	31	Urinals .. .. ..	110
Commode chairs ..	7	Urinal bags .. ..	3
Crutches, pair ..	1	Waterproof sheets ..	240
Feeding cups .. ..	23	Wheel chairs .. ..	24
Head poles and chains	3		



## HEALTH EDUCATION

Leaflets, posters, and pamphlets are used at clinics, and leaflets and pamphlets are sometimes distributed at meetings. Health education material available has been extensively used by doctors, health visitors, and other members of the Health Department.

Talks and demonstrations have been given by members of the department, and each request for a speaker has been met. Organisations addressed by the Medical Officer of Health included the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations, on co-operation between the local authority and voluntary bodies, members of the Inner Wheel on the work of the Health Visitor, and members of the Rotary Club on the changing pattern of Public Health.

Increasing use has been made of visual aid material to illustrate lectures. A film strip projector has been purchased, and a start has been made in building up a small library of film strips.

# VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

## (i) Diphtheria

Table showing the number of primary immunisations completed and the number of reinforcing injections given during 1955 :—

### Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

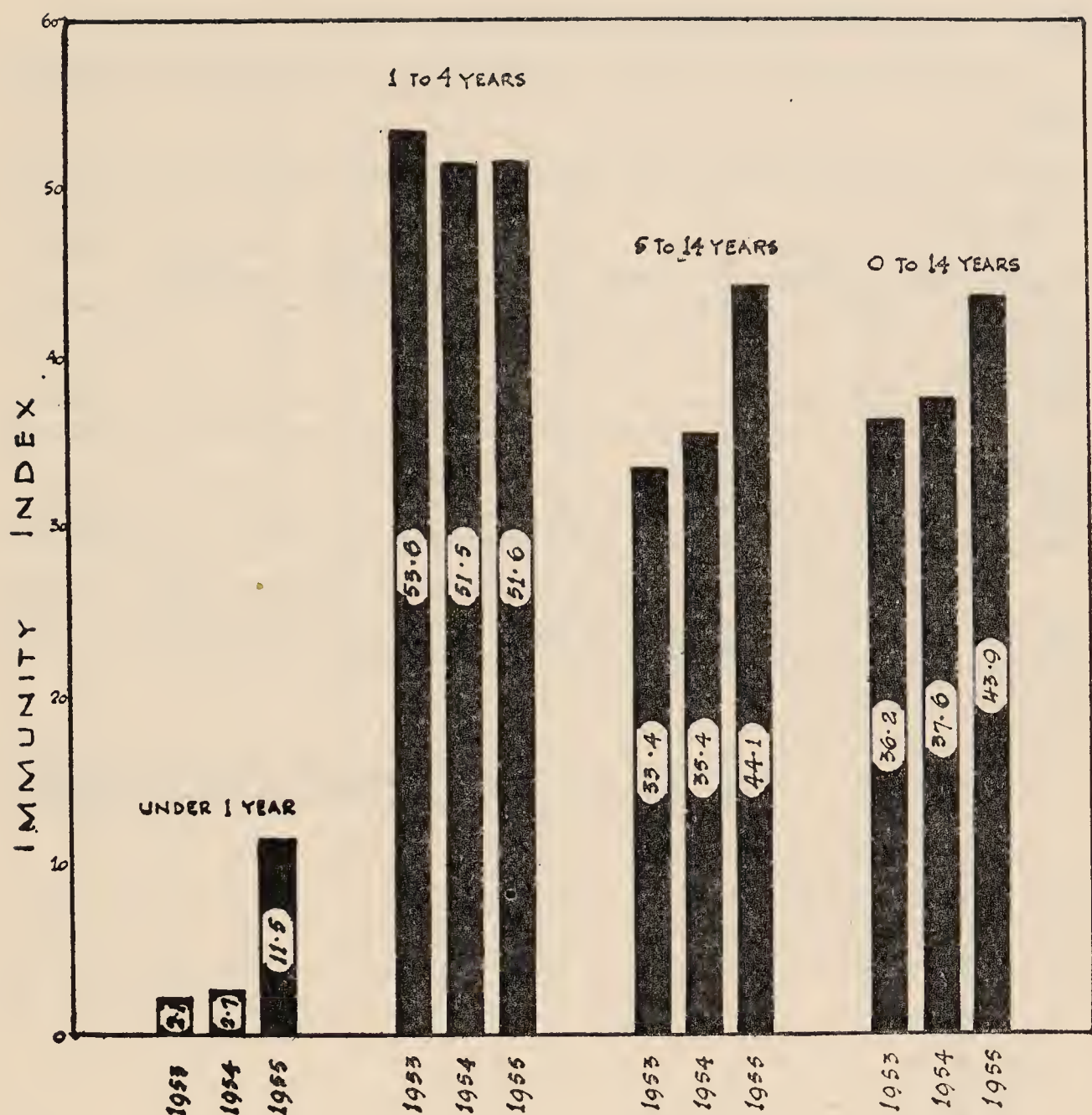
Number of children at 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation *at any time before that date* (*i.e.* at any time since 1st January, 1940).

Age at 31.12.55 <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	<i>Under 1</i> <i>1955</i>	<i>1-4</i> <i>1954-1951</i>	<i>5-9</i> <i>1950-1946</i>	<i>10-14</i> <i>1945-1941</i>	<i>Under 15</i> <i>Total</i>
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) A.1950-1954 .. ..	169	3,010	3,255	3,274	9,708
B.1949 or earlier ..	—	—	1,753	5,515	7,268
Estimated mid-year child population ..	1,470	5,830	14,800		22,100
Immunity Index 1955 .. .. .	11.5	51.6	44.1		43.9

The proportion of children immunised and believed to be protected against diphtheria was higher in all age groups in 1955 than in 1954. The number of children immunised, who were aged less than a year at the end of 1955 increased substantially from 39 to 169 mainly because in the second half of the year immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough was offered to children at the age of four months, thus enabling the whole course of injections to be completed before the end of the first year of life. Towards the end of the year it was possible to resume mass immunisation sessions in schools, and during November and December, 91 school children received a primary course of injections and 408 reinforcement injections. This campaign was intensified in the first three months of 1956, when 285 school children were given primary courses of immunisation and 1,381 received reinforcement doses.

The overall position regarding immunity can be summarised in the following table.





Of the immunisations carried out during 1955 175 primary immunisations and 84 reinforcement injections were carried out by general practitioners participating in the Council's scheme under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act. It is hoped that in 1956 arrangements will be possible for general practitioners to be informed of all children who have recently entered school and have declined reinforcement injections.

(ii) Since July, 1954, immunisation against both diphtheria and whooping cough, using the suspended preparation, began to replace the immunisation against whooping cough alone. The following table shows the total number of immunisations against whooping cough only, completed by the staff of the department in 1955.

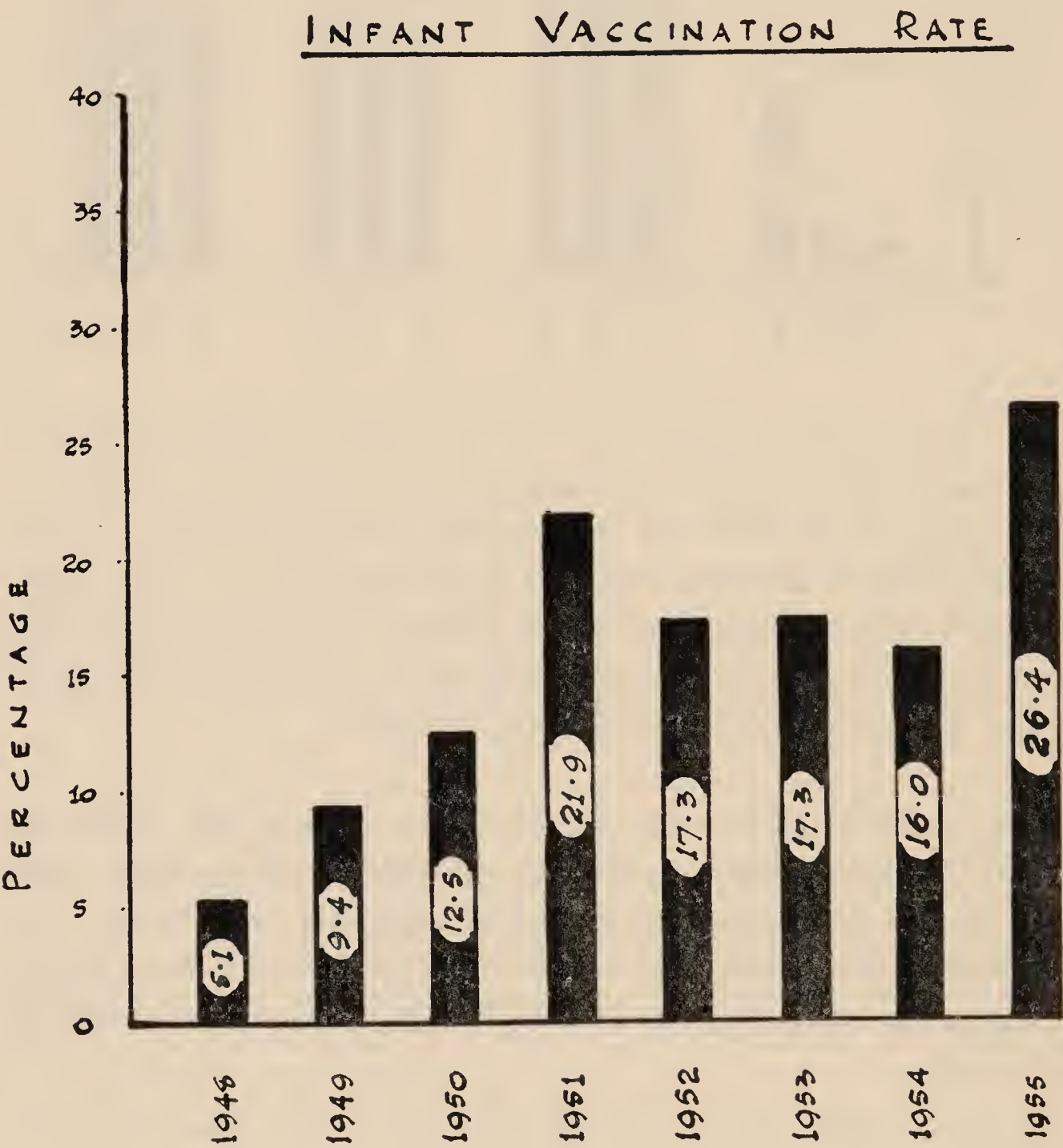
<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>5 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
—	4	1	1	5	—	11

(iii) Vaccination against Smallpox

Table showing successful vaccinations performed during the year :—

<i>Age at date of vaccination</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2-4 years</i>	<i>5-14 years</i>	<i>15 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number vaccinated (primary)	368	9	13	2	15	407
Number re-vaccinated	—	—	—	4	41	45

The percentage of infants vaccinated during 1955 was the highest since the implementation of the National Health Service Act, and the yearly figures can be summarised as follows :—





In the second half of 1955 when vaccination against smallpox became available at every clinic session at each infant welfare clinic and was offered in the fourth month of life, discussions took place with members of the Local Medical Committee on the best means of increasing the acceptance rate, and action was taken to implement two of the proposals made by the Council under the National Health Service Act 1946. Firstly, leaflets were distributed to parents registering the births of their children, encouraging them to have the babies vaccinated, either by the family or the clinic doctor, and secondly, general practitioners are reminded of babies in their practice who have reached the age of four months and have not been vaccinated.

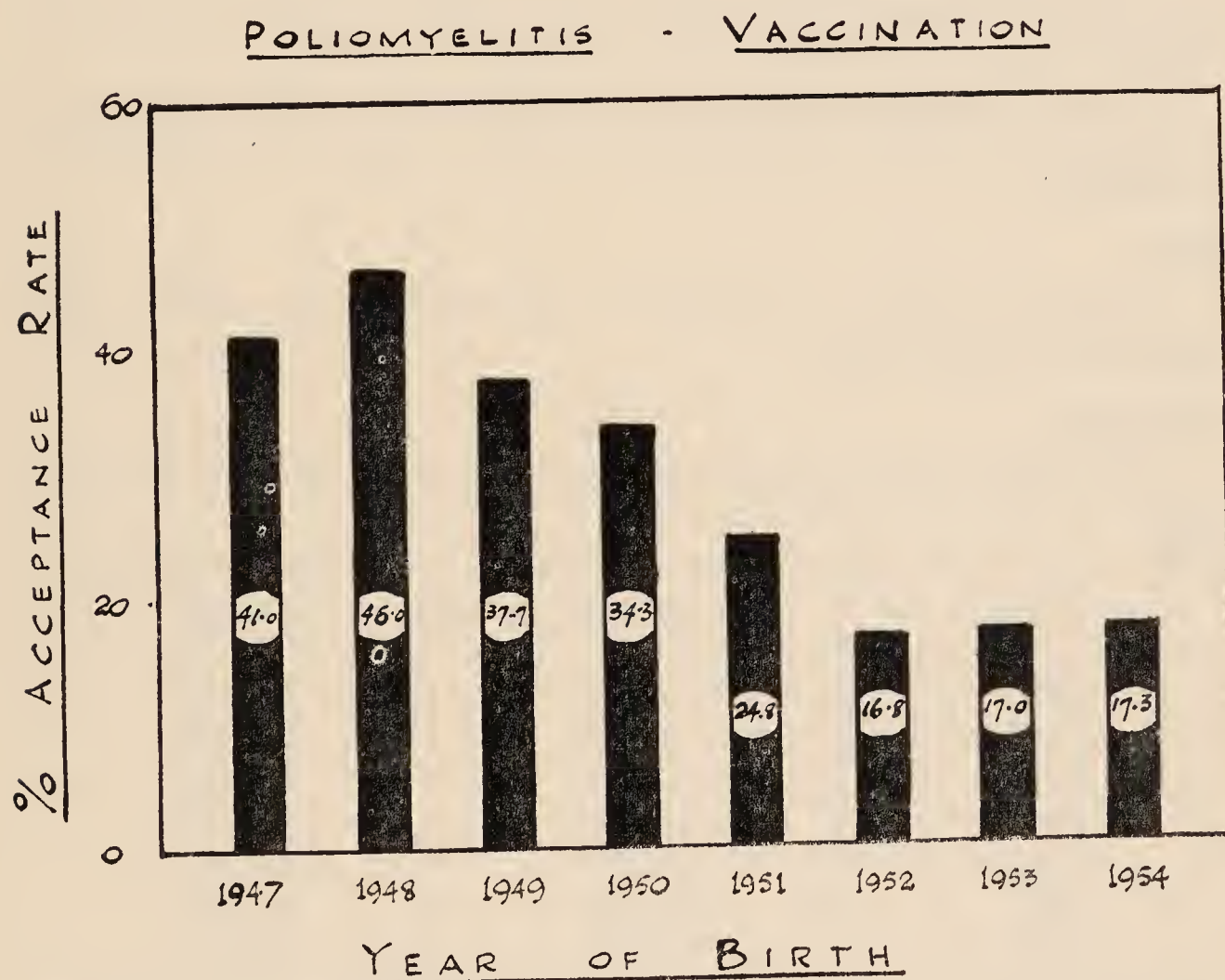
Preliminary figures indicate that the percentage of children vaccinated in 1956 will be at a higher level than those in 1955.

During the year re-vaccination was offered to Ambulance, Health and Sanitary Department staff.

#### (iv) Vaccination against poliomyelitis

On January 19th, 1956, the Minister of Health announced that a vaccine, which is believed to confer a degree of protection against poliomyelitis, would be made available in small quantities in May and June to local health authorities.

Letters were written to the parents of 12,000 children in these age groups in the town, and local newspapers publicised the availability of the vaccination. Acceptances were received on behalf of 3,657 children, 30.5% of the total. The response can be summarised in the following table:—



309 children born in November between 1947–54, March 1951–54, and August 1947–54, were vaccinated in May 1956.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

### Administration

This service is administered and operated directly by the Corporation's Transport Department on behalf of the Health Committee.

### Mode of Transport

The ambulances are used for journeys in West Bromwich and to and from centres in the area. For more lengthy journeys, arrangements are made with British Railways for the booking of compartments on trains leaving one of the main line stations, and it is sometimes found that rail journeys are shorter, more comfortable, and cheaper than travel by road. The number of patients carried by train in 1955 was 33 compared with three in 1954, and six in 1953.

### Ambulances

The vehicles in service are as follows :—

<i>Type</i>		<i>Placed in service</i>	<i>Mileage 1955/56</i>
Austin	.. ..	24.1.29	116
Morris	.. ..	18.12.39	14,918
Austin	.. ..	1.2.46	1,186
(1935 model ex Civil Defence)			
Austin	.. ..	26.7.48	13,707
Daimler	.. ..	26.7.49	17,282
Morris	.. ..	6.7.49	15,587
Daimler	.. ..	22.1.51	24,641

The oldest ambulance is due to be taken out of service, and the gradual replacement of some of the other vehicles with more modern and comfortable types, seemed desirable.

A new Daimler ambulance was delivered in April 1956, and provision for a further ambulance has been made in the estimates for 1956/57.

### Staff

There has been no increase in the number of drivers and attendants during 1955.

### Activities

The figures below show the increased use of the service since 1948.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949	7,112	50,893
1950	7,255	54,925
1951	8,918	65,405
1952	14,354	71,088
1953	18,275	80,339
1954	19,800	83,984
1955	22,470	88,392



The most striking feature of the increase in the patients carried has been in the case of hospital out-patients, and can be seen in the following table :—

<i>Year</i>						<i>No. of out-patients</i>
1949	..	..	..	..	..	3,300
1950	..	..	..	..	..	3,824
1951	..	..	..	..	..	5,008
1952	..	..	..	..	..	9,857
1953	..	..	..	..	..	13,548
1954	..	..	..	..	..	15,009
1955	..	..	..	..	..	16,710

The development of housing estates in the peripheral parts of the borough has meant that the mileage covered has increased steadily. There are signs, however, that patients from the Yew Tree Estate area are being sent, by practitioners, to hospitals in the Walsall area rather than to those in West Bromwich.

## HOME HELP SERVICE

### 1. General Trends

The number of patients helped has increased steadily since 1951, and the ratio of maternity cases to the aged and chronic sick, which in 1951 was 1 to 2·8, had in 1955 become 1 to 8·8.

<i>Year</i>		<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Aged and Chronic Sick</i>
1951	.. ..	52	144
1952	.. ..	60	187
1953	.. ..	59	195
1954	.. ..	43	225
1955	.. ..	27	239

### 2. Classification of Cases helped during the last two years

	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
Home confinements ..	38	26
Other maternity cases ..	5	4
Others including acute illness	48	51
Aged and chronically sick ..	225	229
Tuberculosis .. ..	10	8
Problem families .. ..	—	2
	<hr/> 326	<hr/> 320

I am pleased to report that no case was refused help owing to pressure of work, although the amount of help given was necessarily reduced on certain occasions.

109 patients (about one-third of the total) received continuous help during the year.

Long term cases (*i.e.*, those of more than three months' duration) on the books at the end of 1955 can be analysed as follows :—

Aged and infirm .. ..	33
Arthritis, rheumatism .. ..	21
Blind, partially sighted .. ..	5
Bronchitis, pneumonia .. ..	13
Carcinoma .. ..	10
Cardiac .. ..	25
Congenital deformity of lower limbs ..	1
Diabetic .. ..	3
Disseminated sclerosis .. ..	2
Nervous illness .. ..	3
Old poliomyelitis .. ..	1
Peptic ulcer .. ..	1
Phlebitis, varicose veins .. ..	4
Stroke, hypertension .. ..	24
Tuberculosis .. ..	3
Ulcerated legs .. ..	2
Skin diseases .. ..	2
Problem family .. ..	1
Loss of parents .. ..	2
	<hr/>
Total ..	156



Aged patients (*i.e.*, persons over 75 years of age) form 45% of the total. It is usually found that younger patients, having received help for a specific medical or surgical condition, make a good recovery. The older patients are often infirm before the onset of an illness during which they urgently require assistance, and frequently fail to recover complete independence.

### SITTERS-IN

This part of the service, in a limited way, relieves the demands which are made on the relatives of sick persons.

	1954	1955
Number of Sitters-In employed ..	2	2
Number of cases helped .. ..	16	18

### CLASSIFICATION OF CASES HELPED :

<i>Emergency</i> — Carcinoma .. ..		4	—
Heart condition .. ..		4	5
Pneumonia .. ..		1	—
Senility .. ..		—	1
		— 9	— 6
<i>Awaiting hospital admission</i> —			
Carcinoma .. ..		—	1
Heart .. ..		1	1
Senility .. ..		1	3
		— 2	— 5
<i>Chronic</i> — Carcinoma .. ..		2	3
Senility .. ..		1	1
Heart .. ..		—	1
Stroke .. ..		2	2
		— 5	— 7

### 3. Finance

The patients helped were classified for payment as follows :—

Full payment (3/3d. per hour — 3/5d. from July) .. .. .						37
Assessed for part payment .. .. .						278
Free .. .. .						7

The categories of patients paying in full for the service were :—

Maternity .. .. .	8
Temporary .. .. .	7
Emergency .. .. .	9
Chronic sick .. .. .	13

# COST OF THE SERVICE :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Net Cost</i>
	£	£	£
1.4.51 to 31.3.52	3,715	787	2,928
1.4.52 to 31.3.53	5,086	876	4,210
1.4.53 to 31.3.54	6,088	1,238	4,850
1.4.54 to 31.3.55	6,251	1,129	5,122

## 4. Staff

			<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
Full-time	..	..	12	7
Part-time	..	..	25	26
Total hours worked	..	..	37,583	36,384

The Home Helps classified as being employed full-time, work from 9-0 a.m. to 4-0 p.m. daily, or longer if required (35 — 43 hours a week). Those employed part-time work 3 — 4 hours daily, generally from 9-0 a.m. to 12 noon or 1-0 p.m.



# MENTAL HEALTH

## 1. Administration

- (a) The Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee is composed of ten members of the Council and meets monthly.

### (b) Staff

- (i) MEDICAL : The Medical Officer of Health.  
Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health (to 31.5.55)  
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (from 5.12.55).

- (ii) NON-MEDICAL : Duly Authorised Officers :  
W. D. Foden (joint appointment with County Borough of Smethwick).  
A. Shaw (part-time).  
Mental Health Officer : Miss I Siddall (to 7.8.55).  
Psychiatric Social Worker : W. S. Terry (part-time to 30.6.55).  
Mental Health Social Worker : Mrs. E. Heilbronn (part-time from 20.6.55).

These officers undertake the social and community care for both mental defectives and mental patients. A rota of duty has been arranged so that a Duly Authorised Officer is always available to deal with emergencies.

### (c) Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committee

The Mental Health Officer prepares home reports on patients in mental deficiency institutions, when periods of holiday at home, or on licence, are considered. She accompanies many of the patients to and from institutions, and supervises patients on licence in the area of the County Borough. The Duly Authorised Officers keep closely in touch with members of the staff of mental hospitals, and the Psychiatric Social Worker is responsible for the after-care of patients discharged from hospitals.

### (d) Duties delegated to voluntary associations

No duty of the local health authority has been delegated to a voluntary association.

## 2. Account of Work Undertaken in the Community

### (a) After-care of patients suffering from mental illness

This work has principally to do with the after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals and referred by psychiatric clinics.

Some of the problems are material, such as housing, employment and financial difficulties, and the worker approaches the appropriate agencies for assistance.

In other cases the difficulties are more personal and the need is for better relationship between the patient and his family. Lack of understanding by other members of the family often causes the patient further mental stress, especially in cases of recurrent illness. Quite often the worker has the task of settling differences between husband and wife to prevent the break-up of the home. Patients make accusations that are sometimes true but are sometimes to be associated with the patient's illness. In such cases the worker visits often until the position is stabilised.

With patients chronically ill, the worker's role is more that of a sympathetic listener encouraging the patient to live as normal a life as possible.

At the present time the worker visits ten young people diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia. Their frequent phases of depression and inability to lead a normal life, cause a great deal of unhappiness in home life. The worker keeps in close contact with these people to help them over their most difficult periods and co-operates closely with the family doctors concerned.

The following typical cases indicate the nature of the work done :—

CASE No. 184. *Diagnosis* : Schizophrenia. Age 22 years

Referred by the Probation Officer. Two appointments had been made for him at a psychiatric clinic but he failed to keep them. Patient had a bad influence on other children at home. Was unable to keep his job. Worker paid several visits to this house in the evening to gain the young man's confidence, with the result that he talked quite freely of his troubles. Patient had hallucinations and appeared to be in urgent need of treatment in hospital. The family doctor was approached and early admission to a mental hospital was arranged.

CASE No. 92. *Diagnosis* : Schizophrenia. Age 36 years

The condition of this patient appeared hopeless, and he was discharged from hospital as being unfit to work again, because of his lack of concentration and mental deterioration. However the patient has greatly improved in the last six months. He is still working regularly and his employers are satisfied. Worker has to visit the home regularly to encourage and advise where possible.



CASE No. 195. *Diagnosis*: Recurrent Depression.  
Age 34 years.

Domestic trouble. Patient is a nervous type of man. He was seriously injured in a car accident two years ago. His health deteriorated so that he had to be admitted to a mental hospital. Patient blames his wife for this. The wife has got into touch with the worker several times recently regarding her husband's condition. On visiting the home, worker came to the conclusion that although patient was in a depressed state, his wife's health was not good. Worker advised the wife to see her doctor who has now diagnosed her as suffering from diabetes. On receiving treatment, patient's wife seemed less worried about her husband.

**Number of cases death with between June and December 1955 — 147**

<i>Age</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 20 years	..	2	—	2
20—30	..	12	9	21
30—39	..	11	19	30
40—49	..	7	22	29
50—59	..	16	13	29
60—69	..	12	8	20
70 and over	..	10	6	16
		—	—	—
		70	77	147
		—	—	—

**Assistance was given in the following main types of difficulties :—**

Serious domestic problems	..	..	12
Housing	..	..	10
Securing further treatment	..	..	18
Employment	..	..	14
Securing National Assistance	..	..	16
Contacting other agencies	..	..	10
General supervision	..	..	67

**Disposal of cases at end of 1954 :—**

Continued	..	..	..	..	45
Adjusted	..	..	..	..	82
Readmitted to hospital	..	..	..	..	13
Died at home	..	..	..	..	3
Committed suicide	..	..	..	..	1
Removed	..	..	..	..	3

**Case Load :—**

From 75—80 at any one time.			
Home visits and interviews from 20th June to 31st December	..	..	386

(b) **Clubs for Backward Young Adults**

Meetings of this club were held regularly during 1955. Persons under voluntary and statutory supervision are invited to join, and apart from a break during the summer months, meetings have been held one evening weekly. The members are asked to pay a minimum of 6d. a week. The members attending regularly are few, but it is hoped activities will become wider in 1956. It has been possible to purchase a radiogram to entertain the members.

(c) **Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 — 1930**

The figures for admissions and discharges are as follows :

<i>Admissions :</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
Certified .. ..	46	26	29	16	11
Temporary .. ..	1	—	2	—	—
Voluntary .. ..	60	60	55	57	65
3 day Order .. ..	8	3	3	12	24
7 day Urgency Order	1	—	8	10	9
14 day Order.. ..	1	2	6	8	3
Totals ..	117	91	103	103	112

<i>Discharges :</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
Certified .. ..	19	18	17	14	21
3 day Order .. ..	1	1	—	1	—
3 day Order (extended)	—	—	—	2	4
7 day Urgency Order	1	—	2	3	2
14 day Order.. ..	1	—	—	2	—
Temporary .. ..	—	—	—	2	—
Voluntary .. ..	60	49	53	62	67
Died .. ..	14	14	10	16	20
Totals ..	96	82	82	102	114

The total number of persons admitted to mental hospitals was greater than in 1954, and, as in previous years, more than half the admissions (58%) have been voluntary patients. In at least 53 cases this admission was not the patient's first attack of mental illness.

During 1955 an increasing number of patients has been admitted under 3 day, 7 day Urgency and 14 day Orders. In 1953 these Orders accounted for 16·5%, in 1954 for 29%, and in 1955 for 32·1% of the admissions. It has been possible to deal with most of these patients without recourse to certification, as can be seen from the following table :—



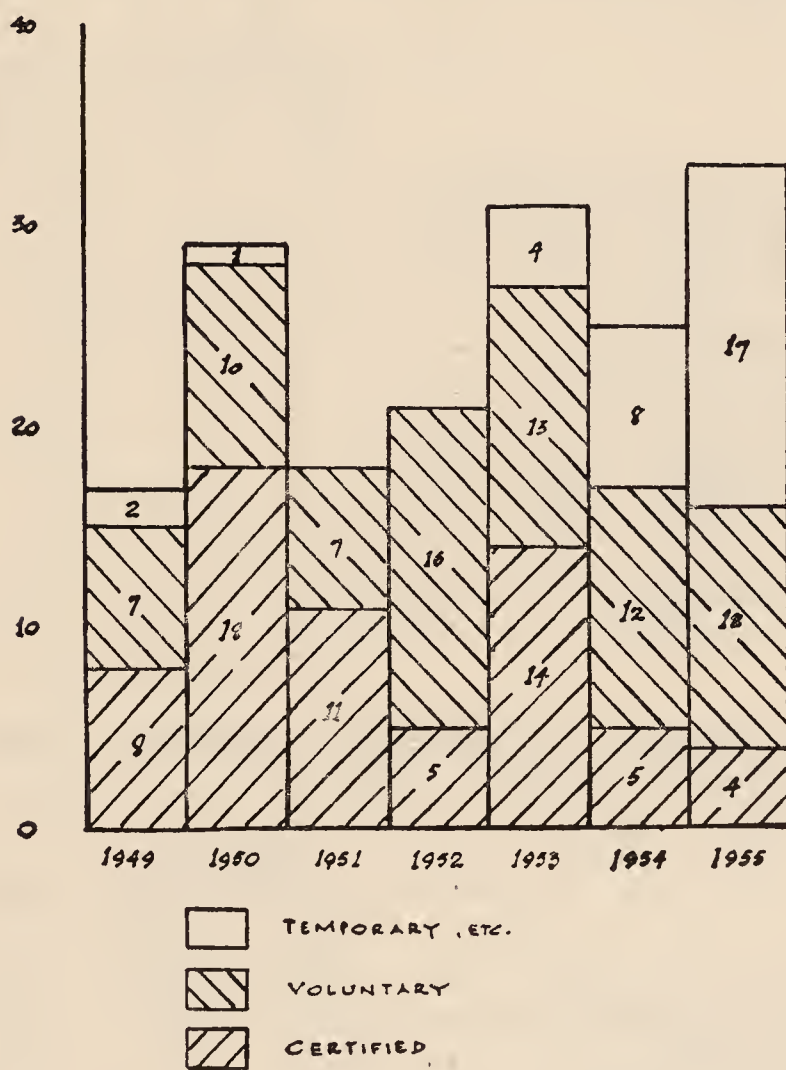
	3 day Order	7 day Order	14 day Order
Discharged within period of Order .. .. .	3	2	—
Patient became voluntary patient .. .. .	12	2	2
Patient certified .. .. .	7	5	—
Patient died within period of Order .. .. .	2	—	1
Totals .. .. .	24	9	3

(d) **Old Age and Mental Illness**

Only four of the 33 West Bromwich patients aged more than 60 years, admitted to mental hospitals in 1955, were certified.

**Admissions of persons over 60 years old to mental Hospitals — Classified by type on admission**

ADMISSIONS OF PERSONS OVER 60 YEARS OLD  
TO MENTAL HOSPITALS - CLASSIFIED BY TYPE ON ADMISSION



The eventual classification of these patients was :—

Voluntary .. .. .	16
Certified .. .. .	13
Discharged within period of short Order .. .. .	1
Died within period of short Order ..	3
	—
	33
	—

(e) **Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 — 1938**

(i) **ASCERTAINMENT**

Twenty-one cases were added to the register in 1955. Of these, eighteen were reported by the Education Committee (twelve under Section 57(5) and six under Section 57(3). Three were reported from other sources.

The details of the patients are as follows :—

		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
		<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>
		<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>
Referred by Local Education Authority ..		—	5	—	13
Referred by other Authorities .. ..		2	—	1	—
		—	—	—	—
Totals ..		2	5	1	13
		—	—	—	—

Action taken under the Mental Deficiency Acts was as follows :—

		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
		<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>
		<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>
Certified under Mental Deficiency Acts and admitted to :					
Monyhull Hall ..		1	—	1	—
Chelmsley Hospital ..		—	—	—	1
Coleshill Hall .. ..		1	—	—	—
Placed under statutory supervision .. ..		2	5	1	13
		—	—	—	—
Totals ..		4	5	2	14
		—	—	—	—

Total number of cases on Authority's register as at 1.1.56 :—

		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
		<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>
		<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>
Statutory supervision ..		63	34	53	74
Guardianship .. ..		—	—	—	—
Institution cases ..		87	7	89	13
Voluntary cases ..		3	5	9	8
Cases under friendly supervision .. ..		—	—	2	—
		—	—	—	—
Totals ..		153	46	153	95
		—	—	—	—



(ii) GUARDIANSHIP AND SUPERVISION :

No case was under guardianship, but 224 cases were under statutory supervision and 25 under voluntary supervision.

No case is being supervised for outside authorities.

Fourteen West Bromwich patients on licence were under the care of this and other County Boroughs on 31st December 1955 :—

<i>Male patients on licence</i>			<i>Female patients on licence</i>		
<i>Living in :</i>			<i>Living in :</i>		
West Bromwich ..	3		Smethwick ..	1	
Cheshire .. ..	1		West Bromwich ..	4	
			Stourbridge ..	1	
<i>Working</i>			Worcester ..	1	
Domestic .. ..	1		Birmingham ..	1	
Factories .. ..	2		Walsall .. ..	1	
Unemployed ..	1		Lichfield .. ..	1	
			<i>Working :</i>		
			Domestic .. ..	10	

(iii) OCCUPATION CENTRE

Steady progress has been made in the work of the Centre during the year, and several children have improved considerably. The finished handwork is of a high standard, which is to be principally attributed to the systematic planning of work, with a definite target in view. Painting and coloured paper work is done, and children's work is displayed as an encouragement and reward. Great attention is paid to social training and the forming of good habits, and children attending the Centre are particularly well mannered. Discipline is excellent. A feature of the work during the year has been the satisfactory progress of the older boys in basketry and stool topping.

The Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. F. Fisher) visited the Centre on the 26th April 1955, and the Mayor and Mayoress for the municipal year 1955-56 (Councillor Mrs. E. W. Grant, J.P. and Alderman Mrs. G. Wilkes, J.P.) attended the very successful Open Day held on 29th June. Twenty-four children, accompanied by their parents, enjoyed an outing to Drayton Manor Park, arranged on 20th July. The Christmas Party took place on 14th December. The Parent/Teacher Group held meetings on 30th March, 21st September and 9th November.

The Inspector of the Board of Control, who visited the Centre in November, commented favourably on the work done.

The number of pupils attending at the end of the Christmas Term was 33.

It was possible to commence a 'bus service for pupils attending "The Crest" who had to travel from long distances. The Corporation is responsible for the cost of the service — about £300 a year, and the parents contribute the 9d. per week which they normally paid for transport on Corporation 'buses, and make a weekly payment to two of their number who volunteered to act as escorts daily. The whole arrangement has proved very successful.

#### (iv) INSTITUTIONAL CARE

Number in institutions within the  
Region :—

	<i>Male Female</i>	
St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr ..	61	73
New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton	1	—
Lea Colony, Bromsgrove .. ..	1	2
Monyhull Hall, Birmingham ..	2	1
Stallington Hall, Stoke-on-Trent ..	2	—
Coleshill Hall .. .. .	1	1
Burton Road Hospital .. ..	1	—
	69	77
		146
On licence from St. Margaret's Hospital		
Great Barr .. .. .	2	10
On licence from Coleshill Hall ..	1	—
	—	—
		13
	Total	159

Number in Institutions outside the  
Region :—

	<i>Male Female</i>	
General Hospital, West Hartlepool ..	—	2
St. Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham ..	—	1
Meanwood Park Hospital, Leeds ..	—	1
Stoke Park Colony .. .. .	1	—
	1	4
		5
	Total	5

#### (v) PLACE OF SAFETY

No patient was placed in a "place of safety" during the year.



## WELFARE SERVICES



The County Borough Council has delegated to the Welfare Services Committee its statutory functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948. The day-to-day administration is under the general direction of the Chief Welfare Officer, who is also the Medical Officer of Health. He is assisted in his duties by two welfare officers, members of the Health Department staff, and the five wardens and six full-time and three part-time staff at the residential homes.

Duties in relation to blind and deaf persons are delegated to voluntary organisations.

### A. CARE OF THE AGED

#### (a) Residential Accommodation (permanent)

Accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act is provided :—



(i) *Directly by the Council at :—*

- (1) The Hawthorns, Green Lane, West Bromwich, for 20 elderly ladies.
- (2) Lyndon House, Lyndon, West Bromwich, for 17 elderly persons (male and female).
- (3) Beech Holme, Beeches Road, West Bromwich, for 20 elderly men.

(ii) By agreement with the Wolverhampton Corporation, 25 beds for elderly persons are made available at the Poplars, New Cross, Wolverhampton.

A mentally infirm elderly lady who, because of her wandering habits, had to be transferred from The Hawthorns to the Poplars on the 25th October, was admitted to Parnham House, Beaminster, Dorset, on the 29th December, 1955. This Home is administered by the National Association for Mental Health and opened on 1st November to try to give suitable care to those who cannot, without difficulty and considerable hardship to their families, fit into their existing home. The object of the Home is to prevent the unnecessary admission of such people to mental hospitals and the resultant distress to their relatives. The Home is registered under Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, and contributions towards the fees are made by the Council.

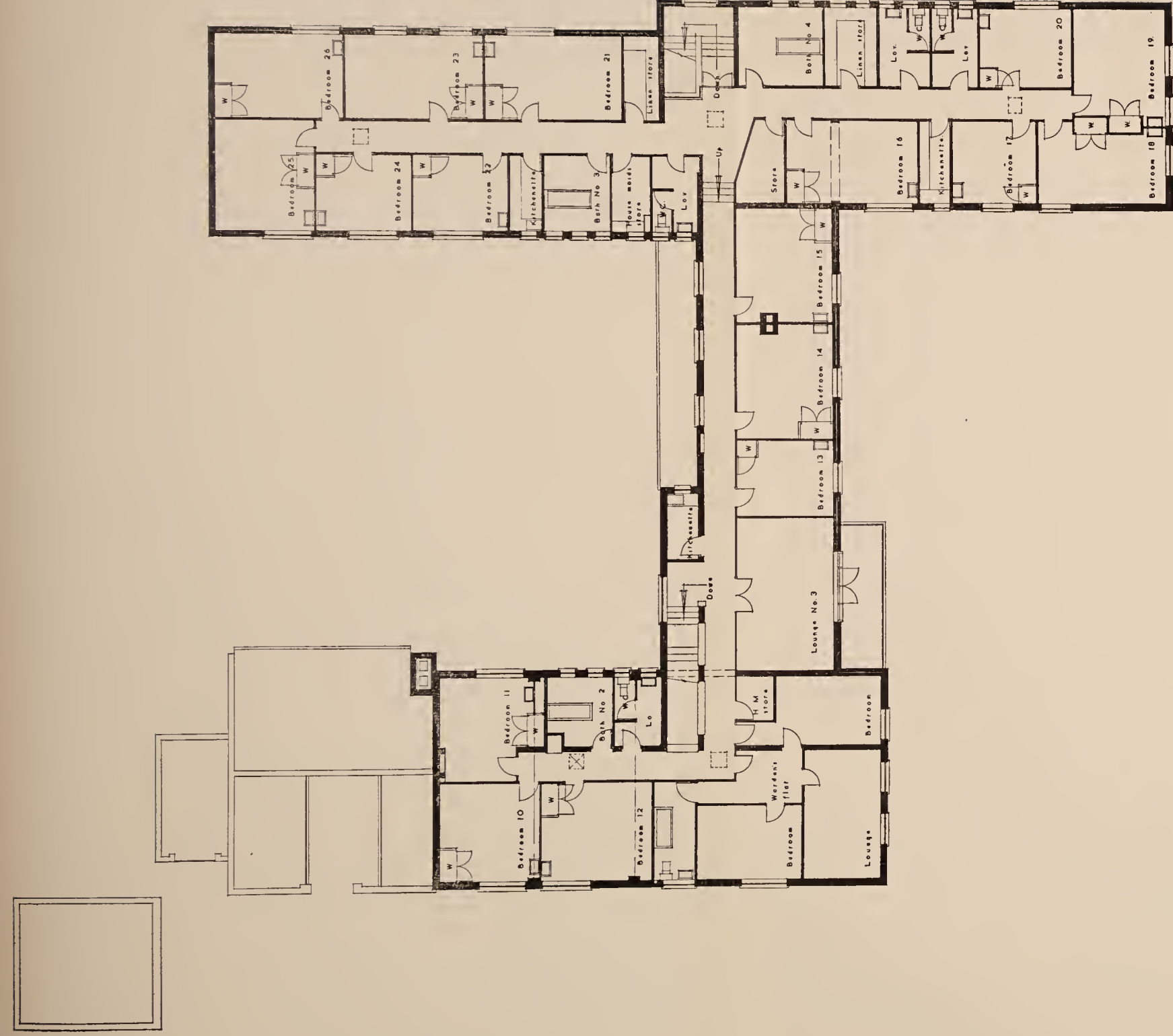
(iii) PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

Work began on the building of a new aged persons hostel for 42 residents at Yew Tree Estate, in March 1956. The main entrance to the hostel will be approached from Greenside Way, and in order that residents shall not feel isolated from the neighbourhood, the site is near to shops and a proposed community centre. It has a natural slope to the south with a pleasant view over the estate, and an area of 1.33 acres, sufficiently large for a vegetable garden and a garden for the residents use.

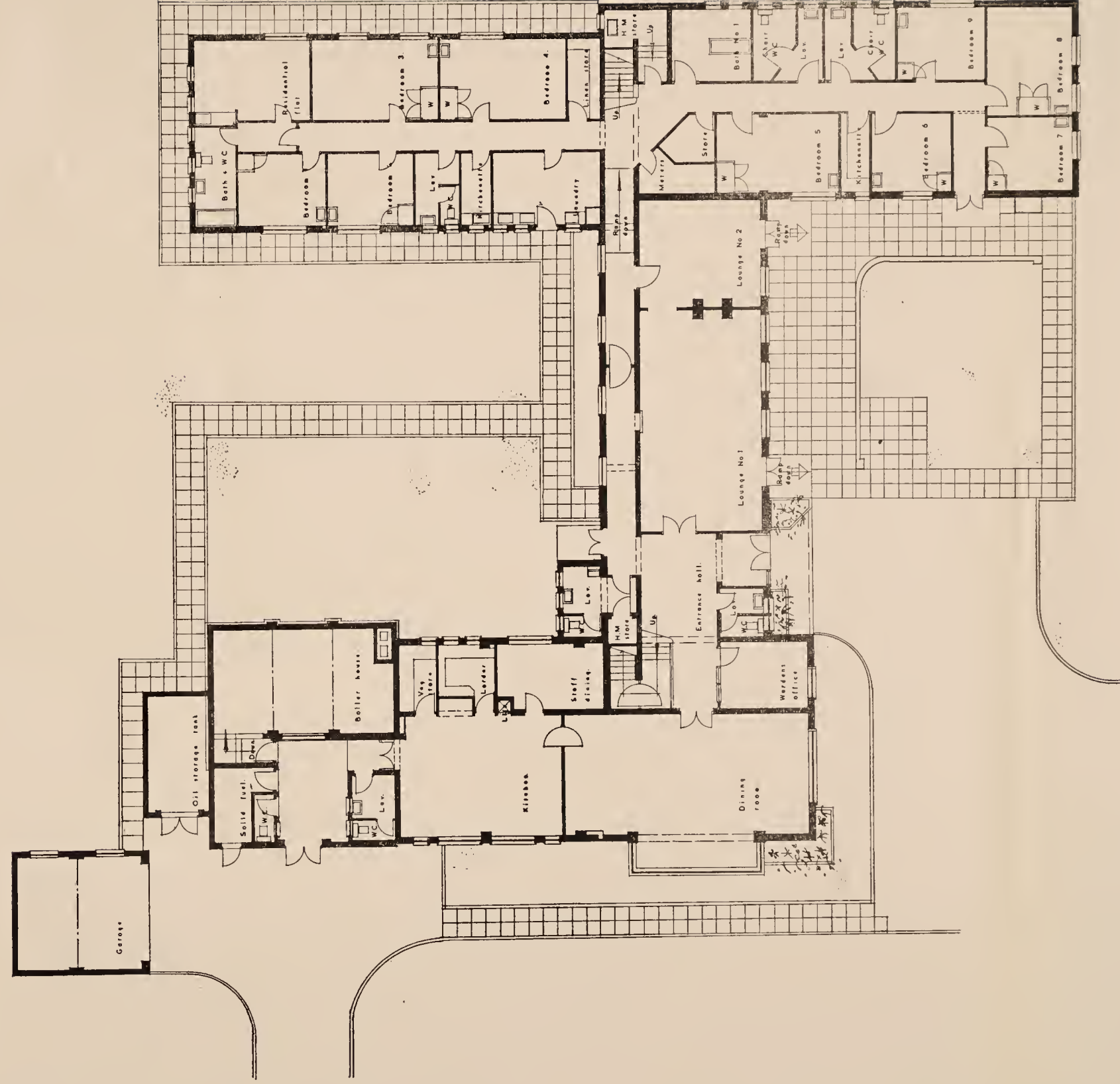
The building, which is designed to avoid any suggestion of an institution, will have a pleasant entrance hall, with lounge, dining and sitting rooms facing south to receive most of the sun and to take advantage of the view. The bed-sitting rooms are placed south-east or west, in order that they get the sun for part of the day, and are fitted with washhand basin, built-in cupboard with hanging space and shelves, a point for an electric fire, an electric bell near the bed, a good central light and a point for a bedside lamp. There are altogether ten single and sixteen double rooms.

The building will be centrally heated by radiators in all rooms and corridors, with open fireplaces in the lounge and sittingroom. There is staff accommodation comprising a two bedroomed and a single bedroomed self-contained residential flats.

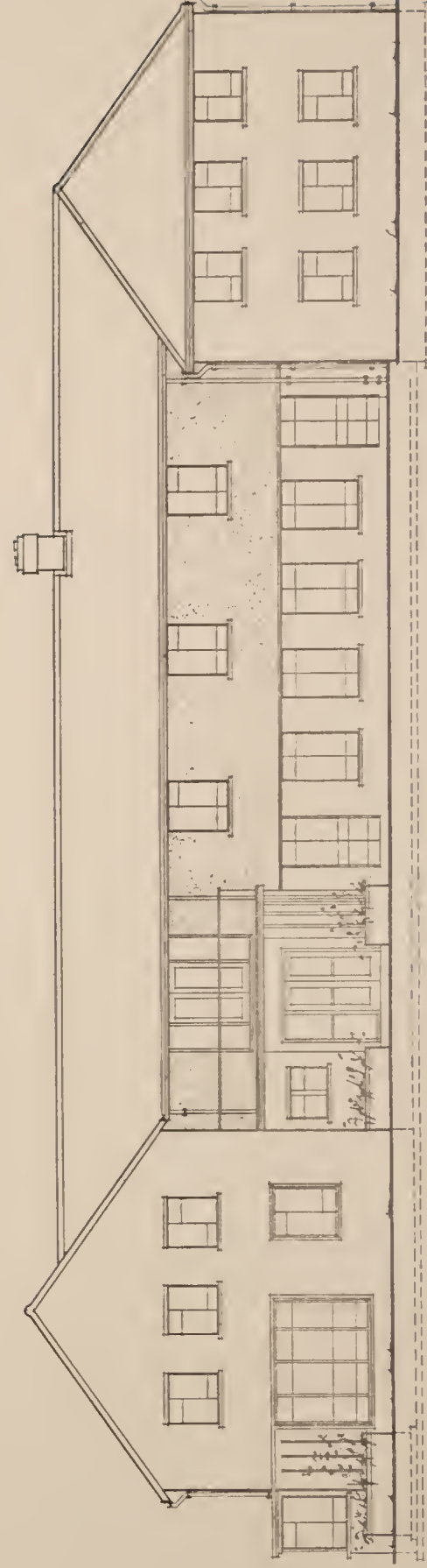




FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION  
HOSTEL FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE - YEW TREE ESTATE

H. SCHOFIELD, B.Sc. (Eng.), A.M.I.C.  
Borough Engineer and Surveyor  
Town Hall, West Bromwich





## FINANCIAL CHARGES

The full financial charge to the Council per resident, at those Homes directly maintained by the Authority is estimated at £5 7s. 6d. per week. At 31st December 1955, 43 residents without private means were paying a basic sum of £1 12s. 6d. per week (increased from £1 6s. 0d. on the 25th April 1955), while 13 were paying a proportion of the full charge according to their means. Each resident receives a minimum of 7s. 6d. per week pocket money (increased from 6s. 6d. on the 25th April 1955), while five were given amounts of up to 5s. per week in return for small domestic services in or around the Homes.

## SUMMARY OF ACCOMMODATION DURING 1955

	<i>Beech Holme</i>	<i>Lyndon</i>	<i>The Hawthorns</i>
Number of beds .. ..	20	17	20
Percentage of beds occupied.. ..	89	98	92
Number of admissions ..	6	6	4
Number of discharges ..	2	1	2
Number of deaths ..	6	4	1

There were 25 West Bromwich residents in The Poplars, Wolverhampton, at the end of the year. During 1955, 16 persons were admitted, 11 discharged, and 7 died.

Ten persons have been resident in The Poplars for more than two years.

### (b) General Welfare of the aged and infirm

Wherever possible a regular visiting service has been maintained to aged persons who are known to be living alone. There is a close liaison with voluntary organisations catering for the welfare of the aged, and everything possible is done to encourage old people to lead an independent life within the familiar surroundings of their own homes.

Health visitors play a valuable part in this work by making regular calls on aged persons within the area and by compiling medico-social reports to assess their needs and, if necessary, the degree of urgency of their admission to hospital. A waiting list of aged persons requiring hospital treatment is maintained in this manner.

Old people make considerable demands on the Home Help Service and during 1955, nearly one-half of the total of persons assisted were more than 75 years of age. Such people rarely regain complete independence after an illness. The number of aged persons officially known to the department at the end of 1955 was 197, a further 18 old people having died during the year.

**(c) " Meals on Wheels "**

I outlined, in my report for 1954, the history of this service in the Borough, and indicated that the West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee, which had resumed the service of 17 meals weekly in November, 1954, had finally to abandon its scheme in February 1955.

In June 1955 the Council invited the Women's Voluntary Service to make arrangements for the continuation of the service. The W.V.S. received a gift of a van and the offer of equipment used by the West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee.

The Council have made a grant to cover the running costs of the vehicle and a sum covering the part-cost of each meal supplied. The meals are purchased from the Civic Restaurant Department at a cost of 1/6d., of which 10d. is paid by the recipient, leaving an amount of 8d. to be made in the form of a grant. As from the 11th April, 1956, the cost of the meal has been increased to 1/7d., but the recipient has continued to pay only 10d.

On the 5th October, 1955, delivery commenced every Wednesday of between 20 and 24 two course meals, and by the end of the year 254 meals had been supplied to the old people.

In January 1956 it was possible to operate the service on two days a week, and at this time a total of 43 meals per week was being delivered.

The members of the W.V.S. have shown great enthusiasm for this work, being ready to maintain the service throughout the winter months. Many of the old people have commented upon the excellent quality of the meals.

**(d) Chiropody Service**

The West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee has made arrangements for a chiropodist to attend at Highfields Clinic, Bratt Street, and the Trinity Road Social Centre fortnightly, and the Stone Cross Clinic weekly. Two patients are treated at home. About 1,400 treatments are given annually. It was announced in October, 1955, that the National Corporation for the Care of the Elderly was prepared to consider making grants to clubs to extend their work, and following correspondence between the Chief Welfare Officer and the Secretary of the National Corporation, an application for a grant was made by the Old People's Welfare Committee in May, 1956.

**(e) Employment of Old People**

On the 24th October, the members of the Welfare Services Committee visited " Brooke House," the Workshop of the Finsbury Employment Scheme for the Elderly, and at the November meeting of the Committee approval in principle was given to the setting up of a workshop to provide light



employment for old people, and it was decided that further investigations should be made into the possible means by which such a scheme could be operated.

A letter was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in April, 1956, stating that the Minister would be prepared to give favourable consideration to an application for his consent under Section 136 of the Local Government Act, 1948 to the Council making a reasonable contribution towards the expenses of an independent body approved by the Council who undertook such a scheme.

## **B. RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION (temporary)**

Under proposals made in accordance with the National Assistance Act 1948, temporary accommodation for persons who are in need of it, for example, as a result of fire, flooding or other unforeseen circumstance, is made available at "The Poplars," Wolverhampton. In practice, help on these rare occasions has often been given by the Housing Committee. However, families temporarily homeless for reasons other than these extreme causes continue to present a problem. Sometimes they are persons living with relatives and a family quarrel forces them out onto the streets, and at other times they are people usually classed as "unsatisfactory tenants" of whom the hard-core consists of problem families. The so called temporary accommodation in these cases tends inevitably to become permanent, unless a determined effort is made to rehabilitate the parents.

It became known on the 7th July that a family consisting of mother, father and six children aged from 13 years to 1 year 11 months, were living in a hole in the ground in a field. The father had been the tenant of a Corporation house and had been evicted in 1949 because of arrears of rent and because the state of the house, generally, was poor. Since that date the family had squatted in other Corporation property, from where they were evicted in 1954, and, more recently, had been squatting in privately owned property from which they had been finally evicted. The family was admitted to temporary accommodation made available in an Old People's Home and remained there until 1st November, 1955, when they were rehoused in sub-standard accommodation owned by the Corporation.

During the year the Welfare Services Committee gave consideration to the provision of special temporary accommodation either by the conversion of existing buildings in the grounds of one of the Homes or by the erection of accommodation which at a later date could be converted to other uses. The matter was further discussed in March 1956, and the question of the desirability of providing this accommodation was deferred until the completion of the new Home on the Yew Tree Estate.

During the year 21 families, containing 41 children, approached the Children's Officer because it seemed that they would soon be homeless. As a result of advice given, nine families containing seventeen children, were satisfactorily placed with relatives or friends. In the case of six families containing fifteen children, arrangements with relations or friends were made, only after visits had been made by the officers of the Children's Department. Nine children from the remaining six families were taken into care, at a cost of just over £1,600, during the year.

C. WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
HANDICAPPED PERSONS

(a) The Blind and Partially-Sighted

During the year, fourteen people were certified as blind, and one person was registered as partially-sighted. The following table shows the diagnosis of cases registered, those recommended for treatment, and the number taking advantage of treatment :—

		<i>Cause of Disability</i>			
		<i>Retrolental</i>			
		<i>Glau-</i>	<i>Fibro-</i>		
		<i>Cataract</i>	<i>coma</i>	<i>plasia</i>	<i>Others</i>
(1)	Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which paragraph 7(c) of form B.D.8 recommends :—				
	(i) No treatment ..	—	1	—	5
	(ii) Treatment (medical surgical or optical)	5	—	—	3
(2)	Number of cases at (1)(i) above which on follow-up have received treatment	—	—	—	—

The Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind acts as the Council's agents. It ensures that persons, certified as blind or partially-sighted by a consultant ophthalmologist, are registered and visited regularly. The Institute operates a workshop and sales section, and makes arrangements for home employment and tuition, handicraft classes, and a social club.

The Institute supervises the general social welfare of the blind within the whole area.

The number of registered blind persons in the Borough is shown in age groups in the following table :—

<i>0-1 year</i>	<i>2-4 years</i>	<i>5-15 years</i>	<i>16-20 years</i>	<i>21-39 years</i>	<i>40-49 years</i>	<i>50-64 years</i>	<i>65-69 years</i>	<i>70 years and over</i>
<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>
— —	1 1	5 —	— 1	4 1	7 5	11 10	3 5	22 25



Of the total of 101 persons (53 males and 48 females) 68% are over 55 years of age and 54% over 65.

### EMPLOYMENT OF THE BLIND

*Open Industry or Self-Employed :—*

*Male*

- 1 labourer in a printing works.
- 1 shorthand typist.
- 1 basket maker.
- 1 general dealer.

*Workshop Employment :—*

*Male      Female*

- 3      Knitting machine department.
- 2            —      Brush making department.
- 1            —      Boot repairing department.
- 2            —      Mat making department.
- 2            —      Light assembly department.
- 1      Chair seating department.
- 1            —      Piano tuner (goes out from workshop every day).

The Workshops for the Blind are situated in Birmingham, serving that area in addition to Smethwick, West Bromwich and some outlying districts.

### SALE OF GOODS

The Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind maintains its own sales organisation in Birmingham.

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Trinity Road Social Centre, situated within West Bromwich and maintained by the Council, serves as a centre for the normal social activities of the blind. Meetings take place every Thursday, between the hours of 10-0 a.m. and 5-0 p.m. A group of approximately 24 persons — 10 men and 14 women — are instructed by a Home Teacher of the Blind to make leather wallets and purses, pension book cases, plastic necklaces, hand scrubbers (wire or cloth backings) rugs (wool and chenile), candlewick work — cushion covers, etc. and stool seating (sea grass, etc.).

### HOLIDAYS

A group of 16, including seven sighted guides and two Home Teachers in charge, spent a week in May 1955, at Cliftonville. Eleven other people took advantage of planning their own holidays and went to such places as Blackpool, Southsea, Kinver, Portsmouth and Exmouth.

### BLIND PERSONS WITH OTHER DISABILITIES .

<i>Deaf</i>		<i>Deaf and Dumb</i>		<i>Hard of Hearing</i>		<i>Mental Defectives</i>		<i>Paralysis</i>		<i>Cardiac</i>		<i>Diabetic</i>	
<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
—	1	1	—	5	1	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	2

Nine blind persons (six males and three females) died during 1955. One male left the district.

#### PARTIALLY-SIGHTED

On 31st December 1955, there were eight adults (two males and six females) on the observation register. The following table shows their age grouping :—

<i>0-1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-16</i>	<i>16-20</i>	<i>21-49</i>	<i>50-64</i>	<i>65-69</i>	<i>70 and over</i>
<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>
- -	- -	- -	- 1	- 1	- 3	- -	2 1

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Total number of cases notified during the year 2

Number of cases in which :—

- (i) Vision lost .. .. Nil
- (ii) Vision impaired .. .. Nil
- (iii) Treatment continued to end of year .. Nil

#### GENERAL WELFARE

Arrangements have been made for a number of blind people to have holidays at Homes for the Blind.

Wireless sets from the Wireless for the Blind Fund have been supplied to all persons in need. Maintenance and repairs are carried out by the Institute — payments being made by the local authority.

Subscriptions to the National Library for the Blind are paid for three readers.

#### (b) Other Handicapped Classes

##### (i) DEAF AND DUMB (INCLUDING HARD OF HEARING)

The Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb in Walsall, Wednesbury and Mid-Staffordshire (Headquarters in Walsall) are employed as the Council's agents, and at the end of 1955, a total of 37 adults and nine children from West Bromwich were known to and registered by them. Arrangements are made for placement in employment, classes in lip-reading and the use of the standard manual alphabet, visitation in their homes, assistance, advice, and encouragement to attend and participate in the activities of the Social Centre. Weekly social evenings are held at the Trinity Road Social Centre and include whist drives, films, etc. Every two weeks a Hard of Hearing Social Club is organised at the centre and caters for about 30 persons of both sexes from Smethwick and West Bromwich areas.

Six partially deaf children are also known to the Mission but at present are catered for by the local education authority.



(ii) PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED (GENERAL CLASSES)

On the 31st December 1955, the number of persons known to be physically handicapped in West Bromwich was 152 (an increase of 25 persons during the year) and these are shown below in the statutory grouping and classification normally used.

*Group A* Handicapped persons (other than children) who though possibly needing training for some new occupation are capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions .. .. 40

During the year six persons were added to this group, but three were transferred to Group D.

All the people in this group are in full employment.

*Group B.* Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions, but who are mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops.. 4

There were no new registrations in this group during the year but two persons were transferred to Group D.

*Group C.* Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and who are insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops, but who are capable of work at home .. 2

This group has remained without movement whatsoever during the whole year. The one person who would not participate in any training scheme remains unwilling, and the other person for whom home employment had to be found has yet to be given work that is suitable for her double disability.

*Group D.* Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of, or not available for, work .. .. 101

During the year this group increased by nineteen new registrations and five transfers-in from other groups. Ten persons died.

*Group E.* Handicapped persons who are children under the age of 16 years and whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority has a general responsibility under Section 29 of the Act.. 5

This group has shown no change apart from two new registrations and continued to remain small because of the adequate provision made under the Education Act 1944.

## OUTLINE OF DISABILITIES

The 152 cases known to the department have been classified as follows :—

	<i>A.</i>	<i>B.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>D.</i>	<i>E.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Amputation . . . . .	3	—	—	9	—	12
Arthritis and rheumatism . .	1	1	—	18	—	20
Congenital malformations and deformities . . . . .	5	—	1	9	—	15
Diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary systems ; of the heart or circulatory system, of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) of the skin . . . . .	1	—	—	17	1	19
Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs and the spine . . . . .	22	1	1	11	—	35
Organic nervous diseases — epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia sciatica, etc. . . . .	2	1	—	20	4	27
Neurosis, psychosis and other nervous and mental disorders not included in organic nervous diseases . . . . .	3	1	—	9	—	13
Tuberculosis (respiratory) . .	1	—	—	3	—	4
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	1	—	—	1	—	2
Diseases and injuries not specified above . . . . .	1	—	—	4	—	5
	40	4	2	101	5	152

The following notes show the kind of help which it has been possible to give to physically handicapped persons during the year :—

### *Case No. 1. Man, aged 52 years.*

Bedridden for over 20 years with ankylosing spondylitis and registered as blind. Has limited movement in his arms but the disease is widespread. His bed was an old A.R.P. stretcher standing on wooden trestles which, after years of use, had begun to sag, causing acute discomfort at night. In its place were supplied shaped wooden boards upon which was placed a foam rubber sheet. In addition, home help has been provided.



*Case No. 2. Widow, aged 65 years.*

Living alone and suffering from arthritis.

Extensive alterations have been made to the house ; the sink has been placed at a more convenient height ; levers have been fitted on doors and the hanging of them altered to make use more convenient ; a new floor has been fitted to the pantry and the position of the shelves changed ; opening to outside lavatory enlarged to make it readily accessible to a wheelchair ; concrete paving has been laid from the house to lavatory, and then on to the entrance to the street. A new hospital type bed with head pole and hand grip, toilet rod in perspex, capable of holding comb, face flannel and powder puff, and all metal type stocking aid with shoe horn attached, have also been supplied.

*Case No. 3. Man aged 79 years.*

Double amputation. Access to the house was difficult because there were three steps leading up to the front door. Two small wooden ramps 12" wide with a hinged top were constructed and a lifting pole provided for his bed.

*Case No. 4. Widow, aged 59 years.*

Had previously suffered from poliomyelitis of the right leg, and is now suffering from arthritis of the left leg and both hands. Living alone and receiving home help for two hours a fortnight. Her coal shed, placed at the far end of the yard, was in a poor state and she was having great difficulty in reaching it. A wooden box on four 6" wheels was constructed, to enable her to carry two full buckets of coal from the bin to the fireplace.

*Co-operation with the West Bromwich Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped.*

This Association held regular meetings during the year and a register of disabled persons has been compiled. To this list the local authority was able to add approximately 30 names. Financial and material assistance was given to persons in need in the Borough, and on January 3rd 1956, a most successful Christmas Party was held for handicapped adults and children in the Town Hall. Twenty-five adults accompanied by 25 escorts, and 40 children, including some with other disabilities, were present, and some of the handicapped children entertained their fellow guests.

It is hoped that the close collaboration between the services of the Welfare Department and this voluntary body will increase, especially in the development of a library and visiting service, and in its relationship to the domiciliary occupational therapy scheme.

#### EPILEPTICS

Nine people suffering from epilepsy are known to the department and the following table classifies the age and sex distribution :

<i>Present Activity</i>	<i>16—20</i>		<i>21—49</i>		<i>50—64</i>		<i>65—69</i>		<i>70 and over</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Employed .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unemployable at present ..	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
Awaiting admission to a colony .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Homes for Epileptics ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

This is undoubtedly an under-estimate of the incidence of the condition in the Borough.

### CEREBRAL PALSY

There were known to be twenty-two persons suffering from cerebral palsy (spastics) in West Bromwich in 1955, and our knowledge concerning them can be summarised as follows :—

#### (1) *Pre-school children*

Four children are known to the health visitors. Three of them have quadriplegia and appear to be mentally backward. In the fourth child the disability is not so great but one arm is under-developed.

#### (2) *School children*

It is known that thirteen children are suffering from this condition, and the types of disability can be summarised as follows :—

Hemiplegia .. .. .	6
Paraplegia .. .. .	4
Quadriplegia .. .. .	2
Ataxia .. .. .	1

In addition, three of these children have further disabilities, one being deaf, one having congenital dislocation of the hips, and one hydrocephalus.

Six of the children attend ordinary maintained schools, two are in special schools — one being treated mainly for the spastic condition, and the other primarily as a deaf child.

Five children have been reported under Section 57(3) of the Education Act, 1944 — four remaining in their own homes and one attending the Occupation Centre.

#### (3) *Adults*

Five men are known to be suffering from the condition. *Case 1, aged 18 years*, attends the Midland Spastic Centre twice weekly, and from May 1956 has been attending occupational therapy classes. He is rather slow in his work but is becoming quite proficient in making wicker trays.



*Case 2, aged 30 years,* uses a hand-propelled chair and can walk slowly with crutches. He has done craftwork while an in-patient at hospital, and has responded readily to an offer to attend an occupational therapy class. He is making sea-grass stools at the present time because he has considerable strength in his arms.

*Case 3, aged 25 years,* has lost the use of both legs and his left arm, and his speech is very indistinct. Occupational therapy at home is contemplated, and a holiday by the seaside has been arranged.

*Case No. 4, aged 42 years.* His mother feels that he is not well enough to attend occupational therapy classes, but therapy has now been arranged at home.

*Case 5, aged 48 years.* He cannot read or write, and has little use in his hands. He lives with his widowed mother and is quite happy doing odd jobs at home. He may be able to do simple occupational therapy.

#### REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

Mention was made in the Annual Report for 1954 that one aged man, who had been unable for a considerable time to care for himself adequately, had been removed to residential accommodation in 1953. The Order was renewed at prescribed intervals, but in July 1955, it was allowed to lapse because the patient's condition had deteriorated to such an extent that a renewal appeared unnecessary.

#### TEMPORARY PROTECTION OF PROPERTY OR PERSONS ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS, ETC.

It was unnecessary to carry out the duty of the Council under Section 48 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to protect the property of patients admitted to hospital or to accommodation under Part III of the Act.

#### BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Council has a duty to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in its area, where no suitable arrangements for disposal have been made. During the year it was found necessary to arrange five burials.

# DAYS SPENT IN HOSPITALS OF WEST BROMWICH AND DISTRICT BY INFANTS IN 1955.



DAYS IN HOSPITAL

(Figures in brackets denote number of admissions)



# APPENDIX I

## ILLNESS IN INFANCY

One of the most helpful features of the happy relationship which exists between the hospitals of the West Bromwich and District Management Group and the Health Department, is the fact that we are sent a note of the admission of children aged less than one year to local hospitals. During 1955, 151 children were admitted a total of 162 times to hospital. Boys appear to have a higher morbidity rate than girls, and of the total of 151 children, 100 were boys and only 51 were girls.

The most frequent causes of admission were lower respiratory infections, mainly bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia, and congenital conditions, seven of which (five boys and two girls) were cases of congenital pyloric stenosis. Admission for digestive diseases were also common, and in this group, gastro-enteritis accounted for fifteen admissions.

Eight admissions (seven boys and a girl) were the results of accidents, which can be summarised as follows :—

Head injuries	..	..	..	..	4
Scalds	..	..	..	..	2
Swallowed pin	..	..	..	..	1
Aspirin poisoning		..	..	..	1

Nine infants (five girls and four boys) are known to have died in hospital, and the causes of death were as follows :—

Broncho-pneumonia	..	..	..	2
Whooping cough complicated by broncho-pneumonia	..	..	..	1
Acute virus pneumonia	..	.	..	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	1
Salmonella infection	..	..	..	1
Acute laryngo-tracheo-bronchitis			..	1
Congenital defects	..	..	..	1
Ruptured oesophagus	..	..	..	1

## APPENDIX II

### THE HEALTH ASPECTS OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

More than five million tons of sulphur dioxide and three million tons of smoke, grit and dust, are discharged annually into the air of Great Britain, and, when meteorological conditions are favourable, form a lethal aerosol.

Deposit gauges are placed at four sites in the borough and the average readings in recent years, expressed in tons of solid matter deposited per square mile per month, were as follows :—

1951	..	..	..	20·01
1952	..	..	..	18·52
1953	..	..	..	16·19
1954	..	..	..	23·15
1955	..	..	..	17·11

Lead peroxide gauges measuring sulphur pollution are placed at nine points in the borough, and the average deposits, expressed in milligrams per 100 sq. centimetres per day, were as follows :—

1951	..	..	..	1·73
1952	..	..	..	1·63
1953	..	..	..	1·72
1954	..	..	..	1·77
1955	..	..	..	1·85

Four thousand Londoners died as a direct result of the smog which covered London in December, 1952, and it has recently been estimated that the fog in January 1956, caused about 1,000 additional deaths in greater London.

#### Long-Term Effects

The long-term effects of atmospheric pollution can be summarised as follows :—

##### (1) BRONCHITIS

###### (a) *Morbidity*

Acute and chronic bronchitis accounts for much of the absence from employment, during the winter months, of Corporation employees, and an analysis of certificates issued to manual workers in April and May 1956, showed that in seven out of 77 cases the illness was believed to be bronchitis.

Bronchitis and other respiratory disorders accounted for about one-quarter of all the recommendations for convalescence during 1955.

###### (b) *Death Rate*

Mortality from this disease in West Bromwich, especially in men, is considerably higher than in England and Wales as a whole, which itself is 20 to 50 times greater than in Scandinavian countries where little coal is burnt.



The comparative death rates, per 100,000 population, from bronchitis in England Wales and the Scandinavian countries in 1951, can be summarised as follows :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Denmark .. ..	2·2	1·9
Norway .. ..	5·5	5·8
Sweden .. ..	5·0	4·0
England and Wales	107·9	62·7
West Bromwich ..	148·1	49·1

Since 1951 the death rate per 100,000 population in West Bromwich has continued to be unfavourable compared with England and Wales generally, and can be summarised in the following table :—

	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>West Bromwich</i>
1952 .. ..	62·1	79·9
1953 .. ..	69·2	103·5
1954 .. ..	57·4	86·9
1955 .. ..	Not available	111·6

In 1954 the death rate in West Bromwich (86·9), though lower than in Oldham (139), Dewsbury (120), Salford (119) and Blackburn (114), was much higher than Brighton (29), Oxford (34), Reading (37) and Southampton (33).

## (2) CARCINOMA OF LUNG

The number of persons dying from cancer of the lung in West Bromwich has steadily increased in the past ten years as can be seen from the following table :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1946 .. ..	7	2	9
1947 .. ..	17	5	22
1948 .. ..	21	6	27
1949 .. ..	18	3	21
1950 .. ..	17	4	21
1951 .. ..	31	1	32
1952 .. ..	31	4	35
1953 .. ..	20	2	22
1954 .. ..	22	1	23
1955 .. ..	37	7	44
	<hr/> 221	<hr/> 35	<hr/> 256

In 1955 the total of deaths from lung cancer in West Bromwich exceeded that due to tuberculosis. While it is generally accepted that excessive tobacco consumption partly accounts for the increased incidence in men, in a number of countries the recorded mortality rate of residents in the big towns has been reported as about two to four times the rate of residents in the country districts.

3,4—Benzpyrene, a substance which is known to cause cancer in animals, is present in chimney smoke, and in the exhaust products of petrol and diesel engines.

The progress of the Clean Air Bill through Parliament has meant that it is now possible to consider the possibility of a smoke control area in the central part of the town.











# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE

## **Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1955**

*To the Chairman and Members of the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am honoured to present this report on the work of my department during the year ending 31st December 1955.

Because of the retirement of my predecessor the year opened with the position of Chief Sanitary Inspector unfilled, and remained so for nearly three months. This vacancy, together with that of Assistant Cleansing Superintendent and two sanitary inspectors placed a very heavy burden on my Deputy, Mr. G. H. Shaw, and the remaining four members of the staff. I am indebted to them for the efforts they made to keep the most essential services working, enabling me to take my place in the department more quickly and easily.

The filling of the vacancies was difficult and slow, and the shortage was aggravated by the resignation of Mr. F. W. Ball on his appointment as a district sanitary inspector in Smethwick. Mr. Ball served the department loyally and diligently for seventeen years, and with an enthusiasm not easily replaced. At the close of the year there were still as many vacancies as at the beginning, including that of Assistant Cleansing Superintendent.

### HOUSING

In April a statement was prepared at the request of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, which showed that the estimated number of unfit houses within the Borough was 4,000. Most of these are more than 100 years old, water closets, sinks and taps are often shared; baths and constant hot water are rare luxuries. These houses ought to be dealt with as quickly as possible by means of Clearance Areas or as houses individually unfit for habitation. Though the task of clearance and replacement is one of considerable magnitude, the plight of the occupiers who probably number some 12,000 men, women and children, is unenviable and must not be lost sight of. The principal of "the worst first" should be adhered to unless there are some special circumstances which justify a variation. Progress can only be as rapid as alternative accommodation is provided, and

unfortunately, the maximum annual output of houses to let is no more than about 450. In response to the Minister's request the allocation of houses for slum clearance was advanced from 125 to 250 houses yearly.

#### CLEAN AIR

In July the government's Clean Air Bill was introduced with the object of implementing the principal recommendations of the Report of the Committee on Air Pollution. Its avowed aims are particularly directed to the prohibition of dark smoke, the installation of new industrial furnaces unless capable of being operated without emitting smoke, the minimising of grit and dust from existing furnaces, and a general authorisation for any local authority to declare a " smoke control area " within its district.

These desirable objectives cannot but be welcomed by a " Black Country " town, and it is a pleasure to record that by the end of the year approval had been given to the appointment of a sanitary inspector to specialise in the abatement of air pollution of all kinds, including special metallurgical and chemical processes outside the scope of the Alkali and Works Regulations.

#### CLEAN FOOD

The year closed with the publication of new Regulations designed to secure more hygienic handling of food in canteens, clubs, schools, hospitals, institutions of all kinds, not forgetting municipal catering and the school meals service. Many of the Regulations were due to come into operation on 1st January 1956, though they were barely received before the last week in the year.

They embrace a very large and varied field of activity, from small kiosks serving tea and sandwiches, to public houses, factory canteens, bakeries and itinerant food traders. In any large industrial town all these types of premises, and more, are present, and in order to deal with them more effectively, maintain continuous progress, and a consistent standard of judgment, some specialisation is necessary and has been recommended.

There is a great deal of work to be done in connection with food handling throughout the town. Though many shops have excellent and expensive fittings, the advantages which these should confer are often lost because of low standards of personal hygiene on the part of those who handle food and who quite literally hold the health of the customer in their hands. There is no doubt that the general standard of food handling is slowly improving and food traders are finding that Clean Food is Good Business. The housewife's purse could be more effective than Regulations if she chose to use it.

Despite the best of relations and co-operation with the school meals supervisor, a very brief and limited number of cases of food poisoning have to be reported. Though the cause was indefinite the enquiries took up much time, but we can count ourselves fortunate it was so limited. In fact, the same occurrence in a public restaurant would probably have passed unreported.



## IMMIGRATION

In years gone by most towns had their "model" lodging houses used by those with no settled address or who could only manage to pay the standard charge of one shilling a night. Until recently, these and their somewhat more luxurious counterpart, the house-let-in-lodgings, had disappeared or were much fewer. Certainly, the charge per bed per night is no longer valid but instead we have small syndicates or groups of immigrants mostly coloured peoples from India, the West Indies and Pakistan, buying Victorian houses which are not wanted by anyone else, living together, feeding communally and sleeping several men to a room. In the case of the Indians and Pakistanis, their women-folk are usually supported with money sent home, and their absence has much to do with the rough and ready mode of life which the men adopt, and which is little different from what could be expected with English men in the same circumstances.

Community life under very crowded conditions does not seem to be favoured by any of the newcomers, and as soon as accommodation becomes available, an established group will move out into another house to obtain greater comfort. So far there has been little tendency towards the development of a "coloured quarter." This should assist the natural absorption of the immigrants into the community.

When the language difficulty has been overcome, there seems no unwillingness to conform to English standards for this type of accommodation, but the large increase in the number of houses so occupied and the need for extra supervision is difficult to meet, mainly because of insufficient staff. The most profitable and practical way seems to be by inspection in the evening.

## TIPPING SPACE

The collection and disposal of house refuse is a necessary service which costs the ratepayers of England and Wales some 22 million pounds annually, to which must be added a further ten million pounds for street cleansing. The two principal items of expenditure are labour and transport. In the national costs of refuse collection and disposal, average transport costs are rather more than one third, but in the authorities with populations above 30,000 the cost of transport for disposal is three to four times as high as in the remainder. The reason for this is the greater distances to be covered in hauling refuse to the disposal point. Since the great majority of authorities dispose of their refuse by controlled tipping, the existence and location of sites for disposal is vital.

In a growing town, the preparation of building sites for houses and factories is constantly encroaching on the available open space and creating at the same time a demand for more space in which to deposit unwanted materials, such as bricks, rubble and excavated material.

The new houses increase the needs of the local authority for refuse disposal and shops and factories which must accompany them have their special refuse problems too. It may be no more than would normally be expected from an average household, but it may be several tons daily as in the case of a large foundry.

In addition to the problems associated with the normal growth of a township is the changing character of the refuse itself. There are already signs that weight is giving place to bulk and it is thought that as the open domestic firegrate is replaced increasingly with smokeless appliances, the change will become more pronounced.

The recovery of saleable materials will become unavoidable so as to conserve tipping space, apart from their intrinsic value.

The alternative to controlled tipping is a mechanical plant for separation and incineration which means high capital and maintenance costs. After incineration of the materials for which no market can be found, there remains ash and clinker to be tipped somewhere and without causing a nuisance.

In refuse collection and disposal we are daily reminded that "matter is indestructible". It can be disposed of by controlled tipping in a way that will either return it to the land from which it came and restore its usefulness, or it may be utilised to provide health giving spaces for recreation.

Suitable tipping sites need to be conserved and protected and brought into use according to a carefully considered programme, even if this means delaying an otherwise desirable development.

#### CONCLUSION

I am pleased to acknowledge the assistance and willing co-operation which I have received on many occasions from the Chief Officers of the Corporation, and Dr. L. E. Hockin, H.M. Alkali Works Inspector, together with the unfailing support of my deputy, Mr. G. H. Shaw, and the remainder of my staff.

The constant support of the Chairman and members of the Committee has been a source of inspiration and encouragement, and I look forward to a year of continued progress in every sphere of activity.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. CAYTON,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector  
and  
Cleansing Superintendent.*



# A Pictorial Summary of the Services organised by the Sanitary Department.

## DESTRUCTION OF PESTS



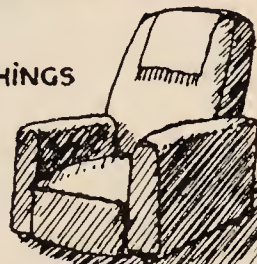
HOUSING THIS -  
INSTEAD OF THIS



## CLEANLINESS OF LIVING MATERIALS



BEDDING



FURNISHINGS



FLY



BED BUG



COCKROACH



TOYS  
FLEAS



## CLEAN AIR DOMESTIC AND FACTORY CHIMNEYS



CAFE

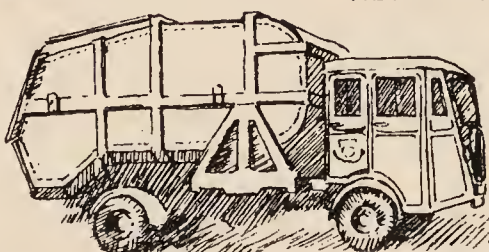
REFRIGERATOR

CLEAN FOOD



CLEAN SURROUNDINGS

## RECOVERY AND SALE OF "WASTE"



DA Hamilton



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

### Inspections

The total number of inspections made during the year was 10,397. The following is a summary of such inspections :—

Inspections — Housing Acts (Slum Clearance, etc.) ..	1,310
„ Public Health and Housing Acts (Housing Repairs) .. .. .	2,233
„ Public Health Act (Nursing Homes) ..	2
„ Public Health Act (Caravans) .. ..	58
„ Food and Drugs Act (Shops and Food Preparing Premises) .. .. .	825
„ Food and Drugs Act (Bakehouses) ..	16
„ Factories Act .. .. .	43
„ Prevention of Damage by Pests Act (Rodent Control) . . . . .	51
„ Houses occupied by coloured persons ..	15
„ Theatres and Cinemas (Sanitary conditions) .. .. .	18
„ Chiropodists Premises .. .. .	2
Re-inspections — Housing .. .. .	2,027
Meat and Food Inspection — Visits to Slaughterhouses ..	2,506
Sampling Visits — Food and Drugs .. .. .	205
„ „ Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs ..	8
„ „ Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials ..	2
„ „ Water .. .. .	23
„ „ Ice Cream .. .. .	6
Atmospheric Pollution — Smoke Observations and Investigations of Industrial Nuisances .. .. .	214
Food Poisoning Investigations .. .. .	3
Infectious Disease Investigations .. .. .	77
Visits in connection with Refuse Collection and Disposal ..	153
Visits — Public Conveniences .. .. .	52
Inspections — Miscellaneous .. .. .	548
	10,397

### Complaints Received

803 complaints were received and recorded during the year at the Sanitary Department, all of which were investigated. The number of complaints recorded does not include those made to the Inspectors on the District.

### Notices Served

The number of notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year was 892. Of this number 659 were Informal Notices and 233 were Statutory Notices. The total number of houses concerned was 1,320. In addition 42 notices involving 124 houses were served under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949.



## Improvements effected under the Public Health and Housing Acts

As a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health and Housing Acts, a total of 596 houses was repaired during the year. In addition defects were remedied in a further 480 houses, after the service of formal notices under the Public Health Act. Of this latter number 414 houses were repaired by the owners, and 66 by the Local Authority in default of owners.

Work has continued during the year in connection with the demolition of unfit houses, and a total of 63 houses was demolished. 54 Demolition Orders and 7 Closing Orders were made during the year.

### SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

#### Interiors of houses

Houses re-decorated or cleansed .. .. .	1
Repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork carried out .. .. .	148
Ventilation provided or improved, windows repaired ..	76

#### Exteriors of houses

Damp external walls — brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material or damp-proof courses inserted .. .. .	34
Defective roofs made watertight .. .. .	132
Spouting renewed, repaired or cleansed .. .. .	108
Chimneys repaired or repointed .. .. .	31

#### Yards, Outbuildings and Washing Accommodation

Outbuildings repaired .. .. .	108
Earthenware sinks provided or existing sinks repaired	12
Dangerous wells or cisterns abolished or suitable covers provided .. .. .	12
Surface paving provided, renewed or repaired ..	3

#### Water Supply

Insufficient water supply — remedied .. .. .	1
--	---

#### Drainage

Defective drainage relayed or repaired .. .. .	5
Choked drainage opened or cleansed .. .. .	97

#### Sanitary Conveniences

Water closets repaired .. .. .	35
Defective connections repaired or pedestals renewed ..	96
Defective flushing apparatus repaired or insufficient water supply remedied .. .. .	3
Ashpits converted .. .. .	1

**Factories and Workshops**

Additional water closet accommodation provided or existing accommodation improved .. ..	9
	<hr/> 912 <hr/>

**Court Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936**

Only one summons was issued during the year, details being as under :—

<i>Situation of Premises</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Section under which proceedings were instituted</i>	<i>Result</i>
38 & 40, Lloyd Street	Dilapidated houses	Section 94	Work completed, summons withdrawn. Costs £3/6/6.

**Houses-let-in-Lodgings**

The number of houses-let-in-lodgings is now five. These have been regularly inspected.

**Theatres and Cinemas**

There are eight cinemas and one theatre in the Borough, all of which have been regularly inspected.

**Factories Act, 1937**

43 inspections were made of factories under the Factories Act, 1937, and 21 notices were served. The following Table gives details of the action taken in these cases :—

	Found	Remedied
Insufficient sanitary accommodation ..	2	2
Defective sanitary accommodation ..	16	6
Not separate for sexes .. .. .	2	—
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	1	1

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949**

Work in connection with the baiting of sewers was carried out, and a total of 143 manholes was tested. Of this number 53 manholes registered complete or partial “ takes ”.

During the year, a total of 477 complaints of infestations of rats and mice was received. In the case of 54 business premises and 423 private dwellings, baits were laid and the premises treated.

**Pet Animals Act, 1951**

There are six premises in the Borough licensed under the Pet Animals Act, 1951. All the premises have been regularly inspected, and a standard laid down when the Act first came into operation has been well maintained. There is liaison with the West Bromwich and Smethwick Fire Brigade in view of the possibility of fire and the consequent danger to animals on the premises.



**Hairdressers and Barbers**

The number of premises registered under the West Bromwich Corporation Act carrying on the trade or business of hairdresser or barber was 77 at the end of the year.

**Disinfection**

A total of 24 premises was disinfected during the year following cases of infectious disease.

**Disinfestation**

The disinfestation of furniture and effects by HCN was discontinued from the early part of the year owing to the excessive cost of such method.

34 houses were disinfested by means of insecticide sprays containing DDT.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION**

Smoke abatement has, as in past years, occupied a considerable amount of time of the Inspectorial staff, and many investigations of complaints relating to industrial nuisances were carried out.

The following Table gives some indication of the work which has been carried out in connection with industrial nuisances.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Nuisance</i>	<i>Result</i>
Chemical Works ..	Emission of fluorine	Scrubbers installed to prevent emission of fluorine.
Foundry .. ..	Emission of grit	Fans of less capacity used to minimise grit emission from cupolas.
Food Warehouse..	Emission of smoke and sparks.	Baffles inserted in flue or incinerator to minimise emission of sparks.
Food Warehouse ..	Emission of smoke and sparks from incinerator.	Incinerator closed by agreement following complaints. Refuse now tipped.
Colliery Spoil Bank	Outbreak of fire	Area excavated and sealed off.
Public Baths ..	Emission of smoke due to use of unsuitable fuel during Railway strike.	Abated by use of correct type of fuel.
Metal Works ..	Emission of smoke from short brick stacks to pot furnaces	Two electric furnaces substituted for coalfired pot furnaces.
Gas Works ..	Emission of grit from Carburetted Water Gas Plant.	Obstruction in grit arresters removed.
Tar Distillation Works .. ..	Emission of smoke.	Improved secondary air supply provided to furnaces.
Rag Flock Works..	Emission of "flight"	Dust extractors sealed and plans in hand at end of year for installation of new process method embodying condenser/dust extraction.

### Atmospheric Pollution Gauges

The recording of atmospheric pollution in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was continued during the year.

The use of four deposit gauges for the collection of deposited matter and nine lead peroxide gauges for determining the amount of SO<sub>3</sub> in the atmosphere, was continued.

### Deposit Gauges

The following Table gives the monthly recordings of the deposit gauges, showing the deposited matter in tons per square mile :—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Highfields</i>	<i>Geo. Salter Schools</i>	<i>M.E.B.</i>	<i>Isolation Hospital</i>
January .. ..	27.85	26.72	13.88	6.36
February .. ..	9.42	17.68	20.35	10.72
March .. ..	19.98	18.91	17.42	13.77
April .. ..	14.37	17.99	24.00	15.02
May .. ..	31.78	28.74	14.56	38.88
June .. ..	19.77	20.64	14.53	15.22
July .. ..	14.40	19.08	11.13	8.27
August .. ..	10.76	11.11	7.38	13.10
September .. ..	12.97	19.74	—	11.90
October .. ..	14.78	14.99	22.53	17.50
November .. ..	21.11	10.04	—	9.35
December .. ..	24.90	27.48	21.20	15.68
	222.09	223.12	166.98	175.77
MONTHLY AVERAGES				
1949 .. ..	—	20.09	24.80	16.37
1950 .. ..	—	20.23	23.83	15.36
1951 .. ..	—	20.84	22.69	16.15
1952 .. ..	—	22.12	15.91	13.82
1953 .. ..	16.07	15.43	18.83	14.42
1954 .. ..	22.97	26.39	24.70	18.54
1955 .. ..	18.50	18.59	16.70	14.65

The above gauges have been in operation for seven years, and the average readings for the whole of the Borough during that period are as follows, expressed in tons per square mile :—

1949 ..	20.56	1952 ..	18.52
1950 ..	19.80	1953 ..	16.19
1951 ..	20.01	1954 ..	23.15
	1955 ..		17.11

Results of analyses of the deposited matter during the year showed a marked decrease in the level of pollution. The average monthly deposit was 28% lower than the readings for the previous year and represents a fall of 2½ tons per square mile per month compared with the average for the previous six years. The decrease occurred in the soluble deposits as the insoluble material remained substantially at the same level, taking the year as a whole. Soluble deposits are influenced by the amount of rainfall



occurring and the decrease in the recorded pollution is probably due to the lighter rainfall during the year. The effect of rainfall is most readily seen when comparing the four stations for the month of July with the results for the previous year :

1954			Monthly Rainfall	Soluble tons/sq. mile	Insoluble tons/sq. mile
Highfields	..	..	5.59"	50.55	5.33
Geo. Salter School	..	..	5.53"	45.74	8.46
M.E.B.	..	..	5.15"	33.69	9.46
Isolation Hospital	..	..	5.52"	48.61	5.73
1955					
Highfields	..	..	2.10"	5.43	8.97
Geo. Salter School	..	..	0.88"	4.54	14.54
M.E.B.	..	..	0.97"	2.52	8.61
Isolation Hospital	..	..	1.22"	1.57	6.70

### Lead Peroxide Gauges

The weight of Sulphur Trioxide (SO<sub>3</sub>) collected in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day is given in the following table :—

Month	Kenrick Park	Highfields	G. Salter School	M.E.B.	Hill Top Park	Isolation Hospital	Rayhall	Red House Park	Dartmouth Park
January ..	3.54	2.78	2.32	3.64	2.27	2.82	2.23	1.73	3.02
February ..	3.41	2.96	2.62	3.33	2.23	2.89	1.81	2.07	3.00
March ..	2.65	2.18	2.69	2.49	1.68	2.20	1.65	1.61	3.16
April ..	2.75	1.89	1.66	2.17	1.48	1.09	1.94	0.95	1.68
May ..	3.15	1.16	1.34	1.87	1.05	1.40	0.93	0.70	1.58
June ..	1.43	0.86	1.02	1.26	0.63	0.86	0.56	0.46	1.05
July ..	1.25	0.77	1.49	1.23	0.71	0.91	0.86	0.71	1.10
August ..	1.11	0.75	0.90	1.15	0.56	0.84	0.66	0.49	0.90
September ..	0.74	1.20	1.42	2.00	1.01	1.48	1.01	1.82	1.88
October ..	2.87	1.75	1.95	2.45	1.36	2.36	1.32	1.56	2.73
November ..	2.07	2.34	2.57	2.57	2.12	2.36	2.36	2.32	2.75
December ..	4.36	2.53	2.59	3.74	2.28	3.04	2.19	1.57	3.16
MONTHLY AVERAGES									
1949 ..	2.51	—	1.82	2.10	—	1.87	1.49	1.20	—
1950 ..	2.39	—	1.86	2.12	—	2.09	1.52	1.22	—
1951 ..	2.46	—	1.80	1.83	—	1.93	1.45	1.14	—
1952 ..	2.23	—	1.64	1.87	—	1.84	1.34	1.11	—
1953 ..	2.47	1.57	1.57	2.08	—	1.99	1.35	1.14	—
1954 ..	2.75	1.73	1.62	2.31	1.20	1.94	1.28	1.17	1.97
1955 ..	2.44	1.76	1.88	2.32	1.45	1.85	1.46	1.33	2.16

The averages for successive years for the whole of the town expressed in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day were :—

1949 ..	1.84	1952 ..	1.63
1950 ..	1.86	1953 ..	1.72
1951 ..	1.73	1954 ..	1.77
1955 ..		1.85	

The average amount of sulphur pollution has remained at substantially the same level as in previous years.

## Emission of Zinc Oxide

The measurement of Zinc Oxide emission from a factory dealing with non-ferrous metals was carried on throughout the year.

The results showed that there was a further marked reduction in zinc oxide emission compared with the previous year. The highest figure recorded was a deposit of 11·6 lbs. per acre during a period of one month, but this compares favourably with the peak figure for the previous year of 16·87 lbs. per acre for a fortnightly period.

## Chemical Works

Analysis of the deposits in a gauge placed in a garden adjoining a works manufacturing hydro-fluoric acid was continued during the year.

The average amount of fluorine deposited was 12·97 parts per million, the highest amount recorded being 42·45 parts per million. The pH value of the deposit varied from 3·7 to 6·86.

The results of the analyses were communicated to H.M. Alkali Works Inspector and the management of the firm concerned.

## Water Supplies

The public water supply is derived from the South Staffs Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department. The water received is treated and was satisfactory both in quantity and quality during the year. Bacteriological examination was made of 22 samples of water, taken from the sources below.

From South Staffs. Waterworks Company	..	10
From City of Birmingham supply..	..	12

Two samples were unsatisfactory, but follow-up samples taken proved satisfactory.

Eight samples of water were taken from the Public Baths, all of which were satisfactory.

Sixteen samples of water, eight from the South Staffs Supply and eight from the City of Birmingham Supply were taken for chemical examination, all of which were satisfactory.

Details of the analysis of the last sample taken are as follows :

Free and Saline Ammonia	..	0·008
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	0·040
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	11
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	..	Minute trace
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80 deg. F. in 4 hours	..	0·5
Total solids dried at 100 deg. C.	..	70
Nitrite	..	absent
pH	..	7·14
Free Chlorine	..	absent
Appearance	..	Bright, few small particles
Plumbo-solvency	..	negative



The number of dwellinghouses and population supplied with water from the mains is as under :—

	Houses	Population	Percentage
(a) Direct to houses ..	22,989	81,698	91.14
(b) Houses sharing either standpipes or common taps .. .. .	2,145	7,942	8.86

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

### Meat Inspection

There are nine licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, including three bacon factories.

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

The following Table gives particulars of the incidence of disease in carcasses slaughtered :—

	<i>Cattle exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed .. .. .	1,820	105	233	—	69,827
Number inspected .. ..	1,820	105	233	4,146	69,827
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	1	—	34
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	200	38	2	25	3,860
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	10.98	36.19	1.28	0.603	5.57
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY —					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	1	—	—	42
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	70	21	—	—	2,289
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis .. .. .	3.90	20.95	—	—	3.34

### Inspection of Shops and Food Premises

A total of 825 inspections was made during the year.

**PRINCIPAL DISEASES AND CONDITIONS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDEMNATION OF MEAT AND  
EDIBLE OFFALS AND WEIGHTS CONDEMNED**

					Pounds Weight
Abscesses and septic wounds	..	..			1,573
Actinomycosis	..	..	..	..	89
Arthritis	..	..	..	..	91
Bone taint and decomposition	..	..			381
Bruising, injuries, etc.	..	..	..		1,702
Cirrhosis	..	..	..	..	855
Congestion	..	..	..	..	130
Contamination	..	..	..	..	113
Erysipelas, acute swine	..	..	..		288
Fascioliasis	..	..	..	..	921
Fever, acute	..	..	..	..	797
Echinococcus Cysts	..	..	..	..	178
Hydronephrosis	..	..	..	..	88
Hepatitis	..	..	..	..	614
Inflammation of serous membranes				..	11,936
Jaundice	..	..	..	..	46
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	29
Oedema and emaciation	..	..	..		620
Parasitic conditions	..	..	..		1,885
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	2,046
Pyæmia	..	..	..	..	297
Septic pneumonia, acute	..	..	..	..	615
Telangiectasis	..	..	..	..	30
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	29,484
Other diseases and conditions	..	..			67
Total weight ..					54,875 pounds



## Premises Registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938

Sausage manufacturers	..	..	..	6
Cooked Meat Pie, etc. manufacturers	..			9
Ice Cream manufacturers	..	..		5
Pickle manufacturers	..	..	..	1
Fish friers	..	..	..	91
Ice Cream retailers	..	..	..	244

## Food Premises in the Area

Slaughterhouses (including bacon factories)				9
Butchers' shops	..	..	..	73
Grocers' shops	..	..	..	113
Greengrocers' shops	..	..	..	62
Confectioners (including sweet confectionery)	..	..	..	79
Fishmongers	..	..	..	12
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	..	..	..	50
Licensed houses	..	..	..	190
Outdoor beer licenses	..	..	..	30
Sweet confectionery manufacturers	..			2
Bakehouses	..	..	..	17
Ice-lolly manufacturers	..	..	..	1
Aerated water manufacturers	..	..		6
Brewers and bottlers of beer	..	..		2
Wholesale grocers and provision warehouses	..	..	..	6
General Dealers	..	..	..	184
Synthetic Cream Manufacturers	..	..		1
				<hr/> 1,193 <hr/>

## Method of Disposal of Condemned Food

All meat condemned by the Food Inspectors is collected at a central point; stained in accordance with the Ministry's instructions, and then disposed of to a private concern of high repute manufacturing fertiliser, etc.

The income derived from the sale of this salvage is divided proportionately amongst the butchers concerned.

With regard to other foods (tinned goods, etc.) these are burned or destroyed at the Depot at Black Lake.

# CLASSIFICATION AND WEIGHTS OF FOOD CONDEMNED

The inspection of food other than meat, occupies a considerable part of the Inspectors' time, as the following Table giving the classification of food condemned will show :—

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Carcase	meat	and											
offal	..	..	24	9	3	23			24	9	3	23	
Tinned Goods	..	..	2	2	2	0	}						
Wet Fish	..	..			3	0							
Shell Fish	..	..		3	0	14							
<hr/>								2	6	1	14		
Bacon	..	..				16	}						
Sausage	..	..				26							
Cheese	..	..		1	0	0							
Lard	..	..			2	0							
Eggs (frozen)	..	..		1	0	0	}						
<hr/>										2	3	14	
								26	19	0	23		

## Ice Cream

There are 25 premises registered for the sale and manufacture of Ice Cream, but of this number only five actually manufacture ice cream since the advent of the Heat Treatment Regulations.

During the year, 14 applications were received for the registration of premises for the sale of ice cream, and the number of such premises now on the register is 244.

32 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination and were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham, the results of the analyses of these samples being as under :—

Grade I	Grade II
30	2

## Artificial Cream

There is only one premise registered for the manufacture of artificial cream.



MILK SUPPLY

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The number of dealers registered under the above Regulations during the year was 12.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950

A total of 190 dealers, of whom 178 are small shopkeepers, are licensed under these Regulations. Of the remainder, eight are dairy companies from neighbouring towns holding supplementary licences in this area.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The examination of milk samples continued to be carried on by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birmingham. During the year a total of 60 samples was submitted for the methylene blue test, all but one of which were satisfactory.

Chemical Examination of Milk

26 samples were taken for chemical analysis during the year and all were satisfactory. The average fat content of the samples was 3.5% and the average solids-not-fat content 8.66%.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Adulteration of Food and Drugs

During the year 228 samples of food and drugs comprising 26 formal and 202 informal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

The results of the analysis of these samples are given in the following table :—

	<i>Samples Analysed</i>		<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	
	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>
1st Quarter ..	6	41	6	38	—	3
2nd Quarter ..	5	38	5	36	—	2
3rd Quarter ..	6	50	6	48	—	2
4th Quarter ..	9	73	9	72	—	1
Total ..	26	202	26	194	—	8

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 3.509% compared with 6.07% in the previous year.

## List of Adulterated or Unsatisfactory Samples of Food and Drugs

<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature or Extent of Adulteration</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Curry Powder Sample No. 1877 Informal	Contained excess copper	Wholesalers and ship-pers warned. Agreed to withdraw stocks.
Curry Powder Sample No. 1879 Formal	Contained excess copper	Ditto
Oil of Peppermint Tablets Sample No. 1896 Informal	Not in B.P. 1953	Manufacturer warned to delete B.P. from label.
Ice Cream Sample No. 1913 Informal	Deficient of 26% Fat	Manufacturers warned and advised. Subsequent sample genuine.
Lemon Squash Sample No. 1926 Informal	Incorrect Label	Taken up with packers.
Back and Kidney Pills Sample No. 1997 Informal	Label not in accordance with Pharmacy and Poisons Act	Manufacturers agreed to use larger carton so that formula labels can be fixed.
Head and Stomach Pills Sample No. 1998 Informal	Ditto	Ditto.
Cakeoma Sample No. 2033 Informal	Insect infestation	Vendor warned. No further mixture in stock.

### Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

Nine samples of Fertilisers and three samples of Feeding Stuffs were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst. Seven samples of Fertiliser and one of Feeding Stuffs were satisfactory. Appropriate action was taken in the case of all the four unsatisfactory samples.

### Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941

There are 60 names entered on the list of persons entitled to sell poisonous substances included in Part II of the Poisons List.

### Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One manufacturer of rag flock is licensed by the Corporation and eight premises are registered under the Act. Four samples were taken during the year comprising two samples of washed rag flock, one sample of woollen mixed felt, and one of millpuff, all of which were satisfactory.



## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

### **Public Conveniences**

There are five attended and twelve unattended conveniences in the Borough. Towards the latter part of the year arrangements were made to allow all-night opening at all conveniences, and in two of them free washing facilities were provided for both men and women.

There is insufficient provision of lavatory accommodation over the town as a whole, but it is hoped that complete facilities for men and women will be provided at Carters Green in the coming year.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

A fleet of thirteen vehicles, comprising four Lewin refuse compressing vehicles, four Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipping vehicles, and five side-loading vehicles, is used for the collection of domestic and trade refuse. An Austin three-way loading van provides a special collection of paper from business premises, and a vacuum pump is used for the removal of cesspool contents.

To improve the frequency of domestic refuse collection, a bonus scheme was introduced towards the end of the year, additional payment being made to collectors for all bins collected over a basic target. Four collection teams were working this bonus scheme when the year ended and endeavours were being made to bring the remainder of the teams into the scheme.

In October a salvage bonus scheme was introduced whereby the teams are paid a bonus of 40% of gross paper sales over the first forty tons each month, and 40% of all sales of other salvage. In this connection the provision in April of a Caterpillar H.T.4 traxcavator for use at Sinkhole Farm Tip enabled much more salvage to be recovered and also reduced labour costs at the site. This machine levels and consolidates all the refuse delivered to the tip by the refuse collection vehicles and in addition deals with large quantities of builders' and factory waste. At the end of the days' work, the traxcavator picks up covering material and spreads it to close the tip face. This acts as a screen, assists decomposition and reduces the risk of fire.

The following four photographs show the traxcavator in operation :—





*A side loader tips a fresh load on to levelled refuse. There is no need for the vehicle to take the risk of sinking into the tipped material or to travel to the edge of the tip face to unload. The " CAT " will move the waste to the tip after saleable items have been recovered. The refuse vehicle is able to return more quickly to the loaders on the street thus saving the men's time and vehicle maintenance.*

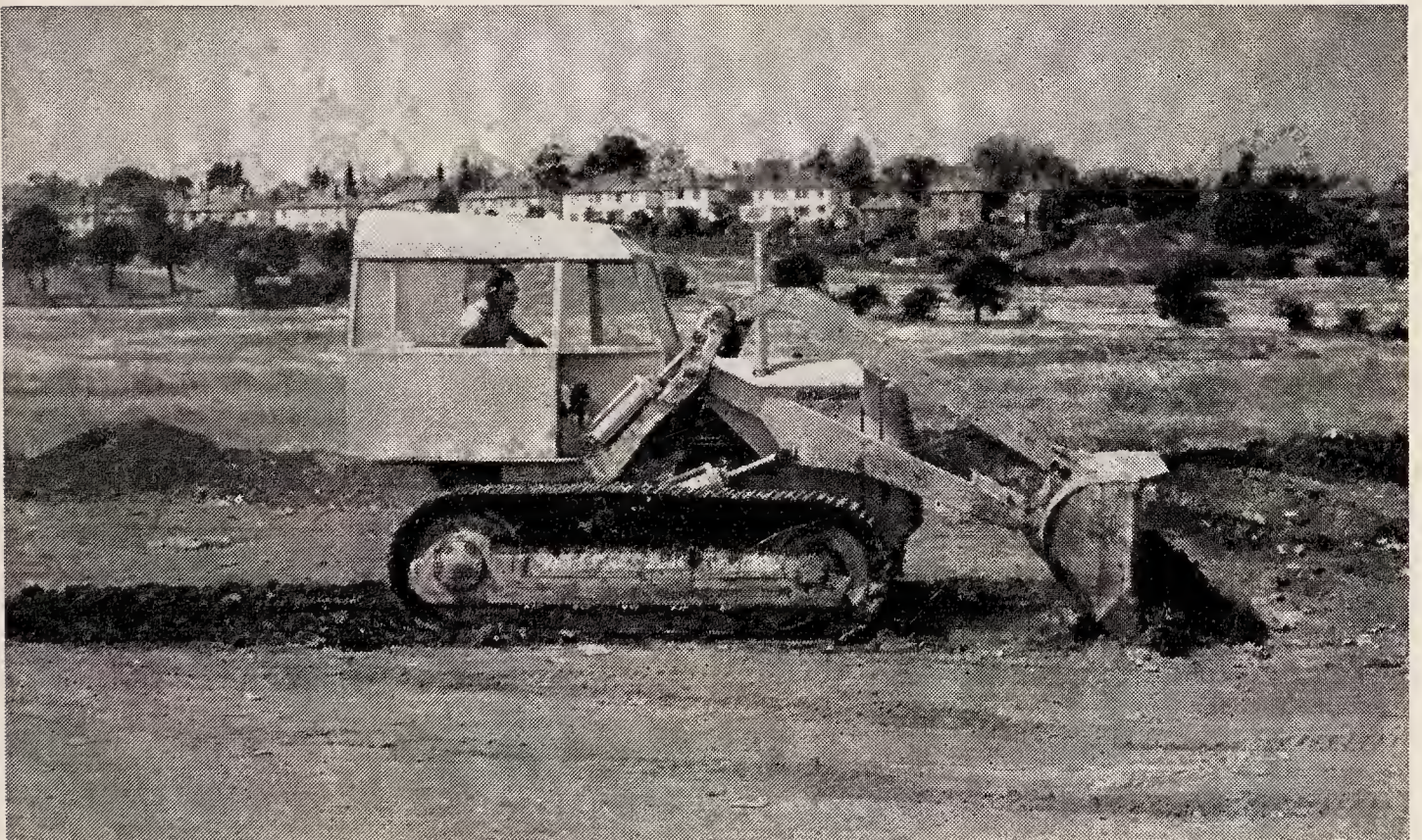


*The HT4 driver and two men handling some of the 100 tons of refuse which arrive at the site daily. If salvage were ignored, the driver and his Traxcavator could control the tip alone.*





*Covering material previously taken off and stored by the HT4 is picked up. It is used to close the tip face.*



*The finished surface is graded to make a good approach road for collection vehicles.*



Again I extend my thanks to Mr. A. Whitcomb Smith, the transport manager, and to his staff for their help and co-operation in maintaining vehicles during the past year.

### Provision of Dustbins

The replacement of worn and unserviceable bins continues as a rate charge and the following table shows the number of bins issued per year since the inception of the scheme.

1951	..	1,514	1953	..	3,325
1952	..	1,856	1954	..	2,532
		1955	..		3,071

The total of the above issues amounts to 12,298.

At the end of the year arrangements were being made for standard  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cubic yard bulk refuse containers to be supplied to schools, hospitals, and similar premises where large quantities of refuse are produced, to replace large numbers of ordinary dustbins, thus saving storage space and collection time.

### Cesspools

There are now 46 cesspools in the Borough all of which are regularly cleansed.

### House Refuse Collection and Disposal

Total number of premises from which refuse was collected	..	..	26,882
Total number of loads of refuse collected			11,875
Total tonnage of refuse collected (estimated)	..	..	30,983
Total tonnage collected from cesspools..			1,378
Gross cost of collection	..	..	£49,667
Gross cost of disposal	..	..	£10,191
Gross cost per ton of collection	..	..	£1 12s. 0.73d
Gross per ton of disposal..	..	..	6s. 6.94d
Gross cost of collection and disposal per ton	..	..	£1 18s. 7.67d
Net cost of collection and disposal per ton			£1 16s. 0.43d
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 population	..	..	£622 15s. 7.20d
Net cost of collection and disposal from each premise per annum	..	..	£2 1s. 6.41d

### Output of Refuse per annum (excluding cesspool contents)

<i>Output</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
Per 1,000 of population ..	328.35 tons	373.83 tons	352.85 tons	330.26 tons
Per house .	23.57 cwts.	26.24 cwts.	24 cwts.	22.02 cwts.



## Recovery of Waste and Dormant Materials

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and the income received is as follows :—

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper									
(various grades)	..		376	4	3	0	3,246	7	3
Baled Ferrous Scrap	..		47	1	3	0	262	5	6
Black Scrap	..	..	11	13	1	0	60	15	9
Bones	..	..		4	3	0	1	7	4
Rags	..	..	3	5	0	0	74	14	9
Cullett	..	..	5	17	0	0	11	14	0
			444	6	2	0	£3,657	4	7

The total of salvage collected and income received from 1945 to 1955 was as under :—

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
1945	..	..	..	1,307	2	0	0	3,807	2	1
1946	..	..	..	1,430	6	0	0	4,750	16	4
1947	..	..	..	1,415	13	2	0	4,596	15	1
1948	..	..	..	1,383	16	1	0	4,894	0	2
1949	..	..	..	1,139	11	2	0	4,622	15	6
1950	..	..	..	880	9	1	0	3,168	4	6
1951	..	..	..	1,029	1	2	22	8,030	9	3
1952	..	..	..	1,084	1	1	14	6,784	16	6
1953	..	..	..	773	19	2	17	3,947	19	10
1954	..	..	..	389	0	0	0	2,530	17	9
1955	..	..	..	444	6	2	0	3,657	4	7
				11,277	7	2	25	£50,787	1	7

